

# Yugoslav fears grow for health of President Tito

Anxiety over the condition of President Tito is growing in Yugoslavia as medical bulletins alternate between reporting setbacks and improvements. The Central Committee was called to an emergency session. The Yugoslavs are apprehensive over the Soviet Union's behaviour in the event of President Tito's death.

## Party concern over Soviet reaction

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Jan 15  
Yugoslavia is going through a time of grave anxiety as the condition of President Tito's health is reported to be alternating between setbacks and improvements. These make the nation aware of the gravity of the situation and make the leadership prepare for a possibility which now cannot be dismissed.

Today's bulletin disclosed that the President's condition deteriorated yesterday as his temperature rose. But in the same sentence it said that his temperature was brought down by medical intervention. As a result, the President, who was feeling better today though the condition of his leg remained unchanged.

What options are open to the eight doctors treating him have not been revealed, but officials now do not conceal the danger arising from his circulatory illness, after an operation had failed to dislodge an arterial blockage.

Concern over the strain that a second, more complex, operation would inflict on the 87-year-old President is clear. The seriousness of the situation became even clearer today when the 160-member central committee was convened in an emergency session to hear the report of the top leadership on President Tito's state of health and on the measures the Presidency was proposing in the event of his death.

The central committee afterwards called upon the country's 1,700,000 Communists to carry out their party duties, which suggests that the party is being mobilised to meet a growingly anxious situation.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the Yugoslav belief that Russia is in an expansionist mood adds to the anxiety of a nation already deeply worried over its future without a charismatic leader, who has ruled for more than 35 years, and become the symbol of Yugoslav independence and domestic prosperity.

The Yugoslavs are not worried by the internal repercussions should President Tito die, but they are not concealing their deep apprehension over Soviet behaviour and their uncertainty as to how the Warsaw Pact is likely to behave. They expect pressures to increase but they say that Yugoslavia's security is not a matter for Yugoslavia alone but is intricately linked with European security which the West certainly cannot ignore.

Their stand over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has already put new strains on their relations with Moscow. The Yugoslav vote in the Security Council and the Yugoslav representative's speech in the General Assembly have already provoked extreme displeasure in Moscow for alleged "provocative" undertones.

The Yugoslavs are confident they can maintain stability and continuity under the collective

leadership which President Tito recently said would safeguard Yugoslavia against a power struggle which could have a disastrous effect.

The President has also emphasised repeatedly that the stability of Yugoslavia would not be secured by individuals, but by policy laid down by the Communist Party and worked out collectively by a team of equals.

Under the constitutional system, if he dies he will be replaced by Mr Stevan Doronjki who is the Chairman of the Presidency, the post which rotates annually, and which expires in May.

Mr Ljaco Kolijevski, a former worker and wartime partisan who is a Macedonian, would assume the state presidency but again on a rotating basis with his term expiring in October.

Both men have spent a long time in politics but have little international experience, although in recent years every Member of the Presidency has travelled abroad on special missions as President Tito's envoy.

The idea behind a recent reorganization of the top leadership was to prevent a personal struggle for power. President Tito said that in creating a rotating leadership equally represented by constituent republics the conditions for a power struggle had been removed.

It is impossible to foresee how such a mechanism might work in the long run. But this is a question for the future. For the time being the nation is anxiously awaiting news of President Tito's condition, aware that this may prove to be his last battle and the first one he has lost.

Common warnings: Some 80 MPs of all parties, including Labour front benches and left-wingers, last night tabled a Commons motion wishing President Tito a speedy recovery and calling on the Government to inform President Brezhnev that they would regard any attempt to interfere in Yugoslavia as "an act of aggression against the international community" (our Political Editor writes).

Mr Doronjki: long time in politics.



# Letters dropped into Kabul embassy compounds threaten death to regime leaders

From Robert Pisk  
Kabul, Jan 15  
The diplomats of Kabul call them "the night letters" and they are the first tentative signs of a unified Muslim political opposition in the Afghan capital to the Soviet-backed Government of Mr Babrak Karmal.

Crudely printed on cheap paper, the declarations and manifestos are thrown into embassy compounds and pushed between consular fences during the hours of curfew, their message usually surmounted by a drawing of the Koran.

The latest of these curious documents arrived in the grounds of western embassies over the past three days. It purports to come from the United Muslim Warriors of Afghanistan and bears the badge of the Islamic Afghan front, one of the four resistance groups which have been fighting in the south of the country.

At the top of the first page is an illustration of the Koran with three rifles pointing from its opened pages.

The letter denounces the regime for "inhuman crimes" and condemns Soviet troops in Afghanistan for "treating Afghans like slaves". Muslims, it says, "will not give up fighting or guerrilla attacks until our last breath".

The document continues: "The proud and aggressive troops of the Russian power have no idea of the rights and human dignity of the people of Afghanistan". It predicts the death of Mr Karmal and three leading members of his Cabinet.

Mr Karmal is referred to as "Karghal" a play on words in Persian which means "chief of work". The first leading political figure to receive opposition is Mr Asadullah Sarvari, a member of the Presidium of Afghanistan who was head of



the secret police during the regime of Mr Nur Mohamed Tarraki.

It is something of a mystery why Mr Karmal chose to include Mr Sarvari in the Presi-

dium since he is widely detested for allegedly permitting the torture of thousands of opponents of the Tarraki regime.

Others whom the letter condemns to death are Mr Watanjeh, the former Minister of Defence, and Mr Shar Jan Mozdoor, a former Minister of the Interior who is Minister of Transport in the new Government.

The letter includes specific attacks on the Russian Army for "committing acts which are intolerable to our people". It claims that Soviet troops kidnapped women and girls who were working in a bakery in the Danlaman suburb of Kabul and after keeping them for the night returned them next morning. The document alleges that a similar incident occurred in the suburb of Khar Khana.

"An act of aggression against the dignity of Muslim families," When I investigated this allegation, bakery workers in

Danlaman said that women workers who normally bake bread for Afghan soldiers had refused to work for Soviet troops and that the Russians had consequently taken the women from the bakery and forced them to make the bread elsewhere. But they were unclear about the treatment which the women had received and were frightened to say more.

The authors of the letter claim that Muslims will eventually overthrow Mr Karmal's Government and effect the Russians, adding judiciously that they will also use the honour of foreign contracts or agreements made with the present Government. They ask, hopefully and perhaps a little pathetically, that their statements should be broadcast over the BBC at 8.45 pm "without censorship".

Carrington tour, page 6



South Africa guards bridge: Lord Soames, the Governor of Rhodesia, has come under increasing criticism for allowing South African troops, like this soldier, to guard the Beit Bridge, which crosses the Limpopo and links South Africa with Rhodesia. The troops patrol the whole bridge including the northern side.

For its part, the British administration yesterday accused Mr Robert

Mugabe's Zanla guerrilla army of deliberately flouting the terms of the ceasefire (Nicholas Ashford writes from Salisbury). Lord Soames's spokesman, Mr Nicholas Fenn, said there was evidence of substantial border crossings by Zanla since December 21, and considerable numbers of people, claiming to be Zanla troops, who had gathered in assembly areas were not genuine combatants.

Some Zanla groups had failed to assemble, Mr Fenn added, and it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that they intended to carry out intimidation during the election campaign.

There was no question of the Governor discriminating against any particular party. The actions he had taken derived from his determination to conduct free and fair elections next month.

## Steel could become political strike

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The dominant union in the state steel strike last night indicated that the dispute, now entering its third week, may develop into a full-scale political strike against the Government.

This prospect emerged after a meeting of 25 delegates of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) representing 15,000 workers in the private steel making sector called a shutdown. The private sector workers are clearly reluctant to get involved in the bitter dispute between the union and the British Steel Corporation, but if asked to strike by their executives they probably will.

The ISTC would not make any statement after the meeting, but Mr Harry Feather, the union's national staff officer, said it would be for the executive council to decide this morning whether to extend the strike to private sector steel makers.

Despite considerable pressure from some areas for a "one out, all out" strike, the confederation leaders are likely to

stay their hand on involving the private sector.

"If it becomes a political strike, another view may have to be taken," said Mr Feather. This is the first time a top official of the ISTC has talked openly of a political strike, though there has been very strong criticism of Government policy and in particular of the refusal of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry to intervene in the dispute.

Mr Feather added: "Years ago, the Conservative Government decided to take on a trade union, and thought the ISTC might be one they could single out. In these circumstances, no member of this union could stand back and allow it to happen."

In the latest ISTC strike paper, *Steelworkers' Banner*, the union reminds its members about the Ridley Report, which, it said, had consequences for every steel worker today.

The item says: "Mr Nicholas Ridley is the MP for Clackmannan and Tayside. While they were in opposition, it occurred to the Tories that they might

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## UK trade deficit more than doubled in year

By Caroline Atkinson

The United Kingdom's visible trade deficit totalled £3,233m last year, more than twice the £1,493m recorded in 1978.

Department of Trade figures released yesterday show a balance of payments deficit on the current account last year of £2,418m. This is close to the most recent (November) Treasury forecast of £2,500m, but is much higher than earlier estimates.

In December, the trade gap widened to £72m, compared with £45m in November, although there was some underlying improvement in trade performance.

There was some slight cheer from these December figures, with exports reaching a record £3,623m, up £79m on November, which had been boosted artificially by the ending of the engineering strike. This had created an October visible deficit of £418m.

December's trade figures were the first for several months to be unaffected by special factors such as strikes. The Government expects the balance of payments to improve this year, although the official view is still of a large current account deficit of £2,000m.

Many private forecasters are predicting a slow-down in the economy to choke off demand for imports.

Yesterday's figures will add to the concern among industrialists and some economists that the strength of sterling is damaging British industry. Volume figures for imports and exports make depressing reading.

Imports rose by 12 per cent during 1979, compared with a 4 per cent rise in export volumes. The key manufacturing sector performed even less well. Britain imported 18 per cent more finished manufactured goods last year than in 1978. Exports of manufactures went up, in volume terms, by only 1.6 per cent.

This pattern continued at the end of last year. Imports of machinery were 61 per cent higher in the last three months of the year than in the preceding three months. Exports of machinery and transport equipment were only 1 per cent up between October-December and the third quarter.

North Sea oil is now having a big impact on the balance of payments. Last month, however, there was a sharp deterioration in the oil balance. This moved from an overall surplus of £12m in November to a deficit of £104m in December. There was a drop in the value of North Sea exports from £344m to £302m, and a rise in oil imports.

The worsening of the oil

Continued on page 17, col 2

## 'New Statesman' cleared of contempt of court

By Alan Hamilton

The *New Statesman* did not commit a contempt of court by publishing an interview with a member of the Jeremy Thorpe trial jury after the case had ended, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled yesterday.

He said, however, there were circumstances in which disclosure of a jury's deliberations could amount to contempt. There were forceful arguments against breaching the secrets of a jury and, if not checked, such activity might become the general custom.

The virtue of trial by jury was that, once a verdict had been reached, the matter was at an end. Each case of disclosure, however, had to be considered in the light of its individual circumstances.

Costs were awarded against the *New Statesman*, who brought the action after the *New Statesman* had published the article, five weeks after the end of the Thorpe trial, criticizing the handling of the case by the Director of Public Prosecutions and including extracts from an interview with an unnamed member of the jury.

The judgment, drawn up by Lord Widgery and Mr Justice

Park, noted that Mr Bruce Page, editor of the *New Statesman*, had published the article with the best of intentions, that the juror had given the interview voluntarily and without payment, and that the course of the trial had not been interfered with.

But Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, had never less argued that the article interfered with the course of justice in the long term, and could affect the attitude of future juries.

The traditional respect for jury secrecy, even after a conclusion of a trial, seemed to be breaking down, Lord Widgery said. Although the *New Statesman* case did not amount to a contempt, that did not mean he would not like to see some restrictions on the interviewing of jurors.

Mr Page, editor of the long-established and respected political and literary weekly, said later that although the judgment had wholly vindicated the *New Statesman*, it had done little to clarify the clouded issue of what constituted contempt of court. "It puts us back at square one," he said.

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Should first wives have financial preference? Page 12

## New germ warfare fabric helps medicine

By John Huxley

Government scientists working on germ warfare at Porton Down have developed a new fabric which it is claimed will speed the recovery of hospital patients, reduce the dangers faced by workers operating among poisonous vapours, and eliminate contaminants from water supplies.

The fabric is charcoal cloth and it is now being produced by a company of the same name under licence to the Ministry of Defence. The company is being supported by the National Research Development Corporation, which has so far invested more than £100,000 in the project.

The cloth is composed of 100 per cent activated charcoal fibres. It combines the flexibility and strength of woven cloth with the high absorption and filtration qualities of good quality charcoal granules.

It was conceived by Dr Fred Maggs, who until his retirement worked at the Chemical Defence Establishment. He has now joined Charcoal Cloth of Wilm-borne, Dorset, as scientific adviser. His original intention was to develop a cloth cover capable of protecting military personnel from the effects of poisonous, and especially, nerve gases.

Now a wide range of uses for the fabric are being explored. Mr Michael Turner, managing director of Charcoal Cloth, believes they already add up to a market worth many millions.

One of the largest potential markets is the medical one. Here, it is claimed, charcoal cloth bandage strips can be used to reduce offensive odours and to improve healing by reducing the risks of infection. The cloth can be used in the form of air-flow filters and masks in the operating theatre to reduce the intake of anaesthetics.

In the industrial field, charcoal cloth has applications in air conditioning of plant and vehicles.

Charcoal cloth will also be offered to the military services

## Seventh senior detective is suspended

A detective inspector in the City of London Force has been suspended from duty after inquiries by Operation Countryman, the police force investigating alleged corruption by London detectives.

The officer, the seventh to be suspended since the investigation began 17 months ago, has not been named.

He is the second City policeman to be suspended. The other, a detective chief inspector, has been charged and is awaiting court proceedings. The five others, who also include a detective chief inspector, are Scotland Yard men. Files have been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for proceedings against four of them.

The Countryman team started by investigating claims that senior detectives in both forces were involved in payroll robberies.

Inquiries are thought to have centred on claims that police helped to set up such raids as the £175,000 wages robbery at the Daily Express in 1976.



If your house is too big, and you'd love to help old people, read how you can help yourself and the old in a remarkable way

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Please write to: Help the Aged, Room T3S, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

## Trotskyists describe infiltration

The Trotskyist "Militant Tendency" has circulated quarterly bulletins to its group's supporters showing how constituency Labour parties, trades councils, trade union branches and the Young Socialists have been infiltrated in the course of a year's activities. It gives Hull course as an example of a "major industrial area where the tendency has really sunk its roots deep".

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## Gold tops \$700

Gold broke through the \$700 barrier for the first time, closing at \$712.50 an ounce in New York. Earlier in London, the price leapt by \$31 an ounce to close at \$687.50. Dealers reported hectic scenes as investors scrambled to buy.

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## Pakistan fears

President Zia of Pakistan has told Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan represented a total change in the balance of the region, but that the Pakistan Army could defend its borders.

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## Lakes inquiry opens

An inquiry opened yesterday into controversial plans to raise the level of two of the Lake District's most scenic places, Westwater and Ennerdale Water. The aim is to provide more water for the Windermere nuclear plant and for industry in west Cumbria.

## 2,000 Lesney jobs go

Britain's largest toy group, Lesney, manufacturer of Matchbox toys, is making about 2,000 of its labour force redundant. More than half are full-time workers at Lesney's main factory at Hackney Marshes, east London and Rochford, in Essex. This follows Airfix's decision to close down its Liverpool Meccano factory last month.

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## Graduates in demand

A large demand for graduates in science, teaching, sales and retail management, computer programming and accountancy is predicted for this year, a report disclosed yesterday. But overall, it says, the gap between the supply of graduates and vacancies would be greater than last year.

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## Ford go on trial

Legal history is being made in the courtroom of a small county town in Indiana where the Ford Motor Company is to become the first homicide because of charged with reckless homicide because of alleged defects in its products. The trial is expected to last two months.

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## Council vote change

The Government is to give a general dispensation to allow councillors with children in state schools to vote on school matters.

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HOME NEWS

# Trotskyists describe infiltration of parties and unions

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Information made available to *The Times* makes it possible to chronicle a year's activities of the Trotskyist "Militant Tendency", which is developing a concerted attempt to penetrate the Labour Party at every level.

The documents, in the form of quarterly bulletins circulated among the group's supporters, show how the tendency has infiltrated into constituency Labour parties, trades councils, trade union branches and the Young Socialists.

Covering the year 1978, the first bulletin, issued in February, boasts in its general report that there can be no doubt that since the national rally last year the tendency has made progress in every field.

It then turns its attention to the firemen's strike.

In every locality comrades went into action immediately when the firemen came out on strike. "Visits were made at once to the picket lines, meetings were arranged and contacts established. Comrades from every area poured reports and interviews into the centre."

The centre is a large, old factory in the East End of London, where the *Militant* newspaper is printed, and is the operating base for the tendency. The chief organisers are Mr Ted Grant and Mr Peter Taffie.

Supporters are told in the bulletin that only a small number of reports were printed in the *Militant* because of the lack of space, "but nevertheless the reports gave the readers of the paper a real picture of how the strike was developing and of our intention."

The way in which the local areas and district editorial boards intervened in the strike really illustrated the great strides forward, it states.

Turning to infiltration into the Labour Party, the bulletin says that since the annual Labour conference "our party has continued to advance and we should be able to make a very good impact in the forthcoming regional party conferences. Certainly we look back over the last year we can say that the attacks on us have done nothing but good in terms of stiffening our own comrades."

But there is a warning for the group.

"Our problem is not lack of growth, but tempo; we are not growing fast enough," the bulletin complains. "We have now increased support in the work places, among the youth, in the party and unions; we must be translated into an increase in the tendency's size as fast as possible."

The Labour Party Young Socialists organisation, which the *Militant* tendency controls, is the group's biggest coup, and the April bulletin was almost euphoric over its achievements at the annual youth conference at Llandudno that Easter.

That is the conference at which William Press and Sons accused the company of a vindictive vendetta against him when he was dismissed, it was said in court yesterday.

Mr Alec Ayliffe, appointed internal audit manager of the construction and civil engineering company in 1974, was said to have claimed a letter to the company: "My dismissal is the culmination of a vindictive vendetta following my discovery of irregularities in the labour-only sub-contracts in Scotland."

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said Mr Ayliffe was a witness in a criminal hearing of charges against the company and 11 of its executives of a conspiracy to defraud the Inland Revenue. He was employed by the company's agents before joining William Press.

He was made redundant by the City company of Tansley Whit when William Press decided to cut back on work done by auditors.

Mrs Mills said at the special sitting of Bow Street magistrates at Caxton Hall, London, that Mr Ayliffe was dismissed in 1976. After his dismissal his decision to sue was based on "an industrial tribunal, where it was believed, he intended to reveal what he knew about the irregularities, caused 'contamination' at the offices of

which Andy Bevan, the newly-appointed Labour Party national youth officer, and a recent member of the tendency, was given a standing ovation. Apart from stepping up demands for sweeping nationalisation, the delegates also approved a resolution which approved of punk rock as being an expression of the working class and anti-establishment.

The bulletin states: "The recent youth conference was a landmark in the history of the tendency. It is clear that we now have a firm base on which to build a mass youth organisation. While our immediate targets are more modest—a minimum of 20 members per branch—it is that goal of a mass youth organisation which we have set firmly in our sights."

Each bulletin gives reports of the tendency's activities in the regions, and the June issue covers a number in the north of England. Hull, for example, is described as "the major industrial area where the tendency has really sunk its roots deep into the movement."

It is reported that the tendency has a presence in all three constituency Labour parties in the city, five or six on the trades council, and a good position in some unions, including the important in the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trade Union. Other unions mentioned are Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, National Union of Public Employees and Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

The report from Merseyside gives a graphic account of how the *Militant* tendency can infiltrate in areas where activity among traditional Labour is poor.

"The mood in the party generally at the moment is very good, and this has been reflected at the meetings, many of which have struggled to reach a quorum. We have concentrated some attention on party work and have appointed a coordinator for this field of work."

The report from Merseyside also says that the tendency has been developed in some constituency parties. We have taken over one party and will be using it to organize discussion meetings. In the recent local elections we stood six candidates and gained enormous support from the voters.

"The issue that sparked it all off was a seemingly minor one—the replacement of the leader of the group on the council by a right-winger. The meeting called to consider this was attended by a large number of people, and a mood of anger was definitely a mood among the activists to slam down any attempt by the right wing to make a recovery in the party."

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# Protestants incensed by statue 'to IRA dead'

From Christopher Thomas  
Crossmaglen

A monument to the dead in the struggle for "Irish freedom" in the centre of Crossmaglen, probably Northern Ireland's most staunchly Republican village, has incensed Protestant political leaders.

An impressive bronze statue of a warrior rising from the phoenix with fists clenched and eyes fixed firmly on the Irish border, less than a mile away, dominates the village square, just 100 yards from the battered army base in this notorious "bandit country" of South Armagh.

Moves are under way by Unionist-dominated councils to find a legal loophole to get the statue demolished. It is reputed to have cost between £12,000 and £14,000, raised over a long period within the local community, which is varying degrees of willingness pays obedience to the Provisional IRA.

Crossmaglen is in the heart of one of Ulster's most violent areas where scores of British soldiers have been killed. Terrorists in Forkhill yesterday injured three policemen and a civilian in a land-mine attack.

It happened as two police vehicles with a local civilian driving his car between them, were travelling on the Corrivoe road. A remote-controlled bomb exploded beside the front vehicle and a burst of automatic gunfire followed.

The statue in Crossmaglen is generally accepted to be in honour of the IRA.

The inscription says: "Glory to you all praised and humble heroes who have sacrificed for your unselfish and passionate love of Irish freedom."

Planning permission was inexplicably granted in 1971-72 by the Unionist-controlled Armagh Council before it was granted.

Mr John McEvoy, chairman of the Newry and Mourne District Council which covers Crossmaglen and which is controlled by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said yesterday: "My fear is that people in the area who might be supporters of the IRA could react strongly to any attempt to remove this monument."

Under direct rule the planning authority in Ulster is the Department of the Environment, which has received bitter complaints from Unionist supporters. The district councils in Larne and Lisburn are heading demands for an investigation into whether the statue conforms with the original terms for planning consent.

Mr James Callaghan, the Opposition Leader, states under the heading of land and property: "Half share of a farm in Sussex, where I live, and from which no net income is derived."

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, declared under the heading of trade or profession: "Regular journalism and broadcasting."

Two MPs, like Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, refused to submit a return for the register, explained yesterday that their aim was to force the House to take a decision on Mr Powell, who declined last session to make a declaration.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, under land and property, declared under the heading of trade or profession: "Shares in Ambicote Publishing Co Ltd; and in the Worcester Engineering Co Ltd."

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, partner in farming enterprise, Mount Pleasant group of docks, the Royal Group, and at Tibbury.

The employers have stressed that they can afford only a 10 per cent basic increase, which will have to be paid for by increasing handling charges. The 2 per cent productivity deal proposed would involve the loss of between 100 and 200 jobs from next June.

The other docks union, the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union worked normally yesterday and its 1,000 members are due to meet on Friday.

TGWU members have not told the employers when the next 24-hour strike will be held.

The London Enclosed Docks Employers' Association last night deplored the strikers' "irresponsible attitude which can only result in further loss of the traffic and a further reduction of job opportunities."

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The statue to those who died for "Irish freedom".

He did not find the monument offensive. If it commemorated the IRA, it was to the IRA of the 1920s and not to the Provisionals, for whom he held no brief.

More bombs: Two bombs exploded outside the Ulster Bank's offices in Waring Street, Belfast yesterday. The area was evacuated before the blast (the Press Association reports).

A car bomb exploded without warning outside the offices of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in Armagh. One person was injured.

In Belleek, Co Fermanagh, a bomb exploded outside the offices of the Bank of Ireland and the Northern Bank.

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# Channel blockade is working, pickets say

From Nicholas Timmins  
Dover

Flying pickets from Rotherham, Yorkshire, mounted a round-the-clock watch over steel movements at the channel ports of Dover, Ramsgate and Folkestone yesterday.

By late afternoon the pickets had seen no steel move either into or out of the docks at which could be counted as a major steel port.

Mr Alan Cook, the pickets' representative, said that after meetings with the local seamen, railmen and transport union representatives he believed "we have got the channel ports more or less sewn up."

The pickets believe steel shipments have been switched to the channel ports following the successful blockade of the east coast ports of Immingham, Grimsby and Kings Lynn.

Mr Cook said the pickets had had a message from Calais saying that no steel would be loaded there, and that if it did come across the railmen and seamen members at Dover would turn it back.

The 53 flying pickets at Channel ports are little more than a token force. Mr Cook said: "We have got a squad of probably 5,000 flying pickets in Yorkshire who would be down here at the drop of a hat if we do have any problems."

"We have got the support of the Kent miners and they have said if need be there will be pickets available in the short-term until we get help down from Sheffield which would take probably eight hours at the outside."

Mr Cook said he believed two steel loads left the Dover docks on Monday, but as far as he knew there was no steel in any of the docks at the moment.

The pickets will be going to Calais on Thursday to meet French trade unionists to try and ensure steel is not moved across the Channel.

Mr Cook said the pickets had also been told of a number of steel stockholders in the Kent area which they would be investigating and if necessary they would bring more pickets down from South Yorkshire.

Renshaw, Rotherham writes from Sheffield. The Rotherham based South Yorkshire steel strike committee said last night that there was no doubt picketing of private steel companies and docks was beginning to bite.

Mr Tom Dolman, a strike committee member, said that yesterday afternoon alone the strike committee had received between 20 and 30 calls from companies in dire straits, asking for dispensations to allow them to obtain steel supplies.

He said: "We cannot give any dispensations."

The British Independent Steel Producers' Association said there was evidence that picketing of stockholders was spreading.

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# Steady rise in secondary picketing worries CBI

From Penny Symon  
Birmingham

As steel workers from Yorkshire continued to reinforce picket lines in the West Midlands yesterday, Mr Stephen Rankin, the Confederation of British Industry's regional director, said that the steady increase in secondary picketing was causing concern to his members.

He said: "Although the scale is small at the moment, we are getting worried because we see it as steadily increasing. Also, there is concern about possible weak links in the production chain."

"If one company cannot make a particular component because they cannot get the right steel to do it, then the whole production process could grind to a halt because of this one vital company going out of action. We are worried that this will happen sooner rather than later."

Mr Rankin said that manufacturing companies in the region had about three to five weeks' supply of steel left. Many stockpiled up in advance of the strike.

But the smaller ones could be in difficulties soon. They did not have the facilities to carry large stocks, preferring to draw from steel stockholders when necessary.

Mr Clive Lewis, an official of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation in the West Midlands, said: "Picketing was peaceful and responsible and we went to 38 stockholding firms, as well as British Rail steel terminals at Great Bridge and Wolverhampton."

The companies picketed included Howard E. Perry, Willmott, and Borealis, Walsall. Mr Lewis said: "We sent about 20 men there because we are unhappy about steel from the British Steel Corporation going out from the plant, and also about the movement in and out of the plant."

Our pickets there said that steel from Shotton had its wrapper torn off in the hope that they would not spot it. "One cowboy lorry driver knocked over the pickets' banner and we were angry about that. Apart from that, things were peaceful. We had no trouble with the police today."

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# Former employee accuses company of vendetta

By David Felton

A former employee of William Press and Sons accused the company of a vindictive vendetta against him when he was dismissed, it was said in court yesterday.

Mr Alec Ayliffe, appointed internal audit manager of the construction and civil engineering company in 1974, was said to have claimed a letter to the company: "My dismissal is the culmination of a vindictive vendetta following my discovery of irregularities in the labour-only sub-contracts in Scotland."

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said Mr Ayliffe was a witness in a criminal hearing of charges against the company and 11 of its executives of a conspiracy to defraud the Inland Revenue. He was employed by the company's agents before joining William Press.

He was made redundant by the City company of Tansley Whit when William Press decided to cut back on work done by auditors.

Mrs Mills said at the special sitting of Bow Street magistrates at Caxton Hall, London, that Mr Ayliffe was dismissed in 1976. After his dismissal his decision to sue was based on "an industrial tribunal, where it was believed, he intended to reveal what he knew about the irregularities, caused 'contamination' at the offices of

which Andy Bevan, the newly-appointed Labour Party national youth officer, and a recent member of the tendency, was given a standing ovation. Apart from stepping up demands for sweeping nationalisation, the delegates also approved a resolution which approved of punk rock as being an expression of the working class and anti-establishment.

The bulletin states: "The recent youth conference was a landmark in the history of the tendency. It is clear that we now have a firm base on which to build a mass youth organisation. While our immediate targets are more modest—a minimum of 20 members per branch—it is that goal of a mass youth organisation which we have set firmly in our sights."

Each bulletin gives reports of the tendency's activities in the regions, and the June issue covers a number in the north of England. Hull, for example, is described as "the major industrial area where the tendency has really sunk its roots deep into the movement."

It is reported that the tendency has a presence in all three constituency Labour parties in the city, five or six on the trades council, and a good position in some unions, including the important in the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trade Union. Other unions mentioned are Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, National Union of Public Employees and Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

The report from Merseyside gives a graphic account of how the *Militant* tendency can infiltrate in areas where activity among traditional Labour is poor.

"The mood in the party generally at the moment is very good, and this has been reflected at the meetings, many of which have struggled to reach a quorum. We have concentrated some attention on party work and have appointed a coordinator for this field of work."

The report from Merseyside also says that the tendency has been developed in some constituency parties. We have taken over one party and will be using it to organize discussion meetings. In the recent local elections we stood six candidates and gained enormous support from the voters.

"The issue that sparked it all off was a seemingly minor one—the replacement of the leader of the group on the council by a right-winger. The meeting called to consider this was attended by a large number of people, and a mood of anger was definitely a mood among the activists to slam down any attempt by the right wing to make a recovery in the party."

# London docks paralysed by unofficial pay strike

By David Felton

An unofficial pay strike by more than 3,500 dockers paralysed London's three main docks yesterday, with 19 ships being left unloaded.

The strike, by members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is the first of a threatened series of strikes. Mass meetings of dockers earlier rejected a pay offer from employers of 10 per cent on basic rates, plus 2 per cent for productivity.

The dockers rejected advice from the union officials to accept the offer. Their claim is for a package, amounting to about 40 per cent, which includes increases in basic rates, a reduction in the working week from 35 hours to 30 hours, extra holidays and improved holiday pay.

No cargo was handled yesterday in the India and Milwall group of docks, the Royal Group, and at Tibbury.

The employers have stressed that they can afford only a 10 per cent basic increase, which will have to be paid for by increasing handling charges. The 2 per cent productivity deal proposed would involve the loss of between 100 and 200 jobs from next June.

The other docks union, the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union worked normally yesterday and its 1,000 members are due to meet on Friday.

TGWU members have not told the employers when the next 24-hour strike will be held.

The London Enclosed Docks Employers' Association last night deplored the strikers' "irresponsible attitude which can only result in further loss of the traffic and a further reduction of job opportunities."

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# Mr Foot given no hint of settlement plans

By Our Political Editor

Angry front bench exchanges in the Commons yesterday over the steel strike ended with Mrs Margaret Thatcher saying in response to demands to know when she would meet union leaders, that unlike Labour ministers she "assumed that trade union leaders are able to speak for themselves".

That did not mean, it was later learned, that the union leaders had only to ask and she would see them to hear their side of the case.

Taunted with being afraid to meet them by Mr Michael Foot, Shadow leader of the House, (still deputising for Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition), Mrs Thatcher scorned him, suggesting that he might keep it to himself if he "can't ask a better question than that".

She was not afraid to meet the leaders of any movement. But she would not be drawn by Mr Foot on how long she would let the strike continue, nor how long the country would have to "tolerate her obstinacy", as Mr Foot put it.

Mrs Thatcher resolutely repeated the message Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, had given yesterday. The real question, she said, was whether people, with incomes lower than the steelworkers, should be asked for further subsidies to an industry to which the taxpayer had already been generous.

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# Two trapped in Cornish tin mine

Rescuers were trying last night to remove tons of fallen rock to save the lives of two men trapped 1,000ft down a Cornish tin mine.

The men, who were working at Pendennis, the mine with a work force of approaching 400, is undergoing a £2m expansion programme.

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## HOME NEWS

## Many jobs in science and commerce for 1980 graduates

By Frances Gibb

A large demand for graduates in science teaching, sales and retail management, computer programming and accountancy is predicted for 1980 according to a report on the graduate job market.

The shortage of teachers of mathematics, physics and chemistry was in turn leading to a shortage of engineers, it says. Engineers needed those subjects at A level.

The report urged graduates of any discipline to consider computer programming, sales and retail management and accountancy, where there was a "strong unsatisfied demand".

Graduates who have some power of logical thinking, and/or a desire to work with people face-to-face might well consider such jobs.

There would also be an abundance of choice for graduates with a good degree in mechanical or electrical engineering and reasonable personal qualities and a good choice for those with degrees in the physical sciences.

But it gives a warning that the gap between supply of graduates and vacancies would be worse than last year because of the general state of the economy. That would affect the job market as a whole.

There would be about 53,000 graduate job seekers this year, an 8 per cent increase over the year before, but vacancies had increased by only 4 per cent.

A big drop, of 10 to 15

per cent, was envisaged in the Civil Service because of public expenditure cuts but the private sector, in areas such as commerce and the manufacturing industry, needed more graduates.

The report is the fifth compiled by three organizations concerned with graduate employment: the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the Central Services Unit for Careers and Appointments Services and the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates.

Its main message is that both graduates and employers must be flexible. One third of the jobs available to graduates were open to those of any discipline and students from surplus disciplines such as the arts, biological sciences and some social studies should look outside their subject.

It urged graduates not to be put off by the word "numeration". Normally "O" level mathematics would suffice in many jobs such as computer programming, purchasing, sales and retail management.

Demand for graduates in accountancy continued unabated and was up by 15 per cent on the year before, with some companies wanting as many as 300 graduates in a year.

In general, graduates seemed to be turning to subjects where they know they can find jobs. Engineering and technology was the most rapidly growing area of graduate output, particularly in mechanical engineering.

## Call for more care on nuclear shipments

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Inadequate attention is paid to the shipping of waste nuclear fuel, according to a report from the Political Ecology Research Group, Oxford.

Its conclusion is that shipment through heavily populated regions and valuable shallow water fisheries constitutes a great hazard. In view of the magnitude of the hazard outlined in the analysis, the research group says it is disturbing to find no reference to the risk in any of the United Kingdom publications from industry, the Government or royal commissions.

The first recommendation the group makes is for a review of the safety of marine transport to be made and published for comment. The transport of spent nuclear fuel by sea cannot at present be regarded as an "acceptable" hazard until those at risk have an opportunity to assess the circumstances and should they feel the risk is too high, to argue for the alternatives.

The report published yesterday is the first of a series of studies commissioned by the Greenpeace organization. It deals with the fabrication of nuclear fuel, transport of spent fuel elements, reprocessing of the fuel and waste disposal. Attention has focused on the dangers of spent fuel elements because that represents one of the most hazardous parts of the nuclear energy cycle, about which scant information seems available.

## Couple's teaching system 'backed by Mrs Thatcher'

From Our Correspondent  
Great Witely

Magistrates at Great Witely, Hereford and Worcester, were told yesterday that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, as Secretary of State for Education, had endorsed the system being used by a couple seeking the right to educate their children at home.

Mr Roland Meighan, lecturer in education at Birmingham University and editor of two national educational magazines, said Mrs Thatcher had signed an agreement with other EEC countries in 1973 committing Britain to support an educational system almost identical to that practised by the couple.

He was giving evidence for Geoffrey Harrison, aged 41, and his wife Iris, aged 37, of the Burntlands, Rochford, Tenbury Wells, who are being prosecuted by Hereford and Worcester County Council for failing to comply with school attendance orders in respect of three of their children. They have pleaded not guilty.

## Bishops to study Roman Catholic remarriage rules

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The possibility of allowing more flexible rules to apply to divorced and remarried Roman Catholics is being studied by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales. In March, 17 bishops will attend a two-day meeting of a group of moral theologians to examine the issues more thoroughly.

At present divorce carries with it no ecclesiastical censure, but is not recognized as terminating a marriage. Any subsequent marriage by a Roman Catholic is forbidden, and anyone defying that ban and re-marrying in a register office or church of another denomination is considered to be excluded from the sacraments.

That is not excommunication, however, and in the case of a divorced person who subsequently has the marriage annulled by a church tribunal a second wedding is regarded as fully valid and in order,

which means it can be conducted in a Roman Catholic church.

Opinion in the Roman Catholic Church has moved away from the traditional view that an "irregular" second marriage necessarily constitutes a sacrilege in that it is brought to an end before the couple can return to the sacraments.

In some cases priests will advise a couple to continue living together, particularly if there are children, on the basis of a chaste brother-sister relationship. The latest trend is to recognize the existing conjugal relationship as the best option the couple can do, and allow them to return to the sacraments because of their subjective good faith and repentance for past sins. The brother-sister relationship is sometimes said to be psychologically damaging.

But when a couple are allowed to return to the sacra-

## No decision on rise in child benefit this year

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Child benefit will not be raised in April, and families will have to wait at least until November for any increase. But Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in a letter published yesterday, that the Government has not decided yet on whether child benefit will be raised at this year.

Mr Jenkin made the Government's position clear in a letter to Mr Stanley Orme, Labour spokesman on social services, in response to a series of questions on the Social Security Bill which is expected to begin its committee stage next week.

Mr Jenkin also disclosed that some of the supplementary benefit rules will, after all, be kept secret; and that the Government may use the Bill to change the rules affecting benefit for strikers' families. But he said, the Bill would not change the present rules that short-term benefit is paid in line with price inflation.

Child benefits were last raised to £4 a week per child in April, 1978. But Mr Jenkin said in his letter that there would be no increase this year.

"Apart from the question of public expenditure involved, now that child tax allowances have generally been withdrawn, there is obvious advantage in the normal up-rating date in November for social security benefits as a whole," Mr Jenkin said.

"No decision on an up-rating of child benefit next November has yet been taken."

Mr Orme said last night that the statement was "extremely significant" for families who were facing extra costs through inflation and the Government's proposed changes on school meals, transport and milk.

The Government had cancelled the previous Labour Government's promise to increase child benefits last November, with the result that by April this year, the £4 a week benefit would be worth just over £3.

"There will be no relief for families in the Budget and they will really suffer before November," Mr Orme said.

We shall be pressing the Government at every opportunity for an increase this spring."

He also promised firm opposition to any attempt by the Government to introduce new rules on benefits for strikers' families during the Bill's passage.

## Details of jet crash made public

Mr Geoffrey Partie, the

Under Secretary of Defence for the RAF yesterday took the unprecedented step of releasing details of a private RAF accident inquiry.

The inquiry was made into a Harrier accident at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, in which three people died.

Mr Partie said details of all future military aircraft accidents involving loss or serious damage would be published.

The three people died when a wreckage crashed on to their homes after the two Harriers collided in flight.

Mr Partie said that pilot error was to blame, but the evidence did not warrant charges being brought.

The planes, from Strike Command, Wittering, Lincolnshire, were two miles from Wisbech when they collided during a mock dogfight last September 21. Both pilots ejected safely.

Mr Partie said the likely cause of the accident "may have been an error by the pilot of the second aircraft."

"The air officer who would be responsible for convening a court martial in respect of the incident has taken legal advice and has decided that the admissible evidence does not support any charge against any person."

Mr Partie said: "I have decided in future we will publish a full summary of the circumstances and causes of the military aircraft accident involving loss of or serious damage to the aircraft."

"This summary will contain as much information as possible and will apply equally to accidents to Royal Navy and Army aircraft."

He should emphasize, however, the actual proceedings of Service Boards of Inquiry are and must remain privileged.

The last time the bishops authorized the publication of guidelines on sensitive matters in the case of homosexuality, their action was welcomed as a sympathetic and liberal interpretation of the traditional view.

## Civil defence—1: Government to give greater priority to protect millions of people SS20 Russian missiles expose Britain's weakness to attack

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's much-criticized civil defence plans are to be given greater priority by the Government. SS20 Russian missiles, which carry pre-targeted warheads, and the super-sonic Backfire bomber, have helped to expose the weakness.

Russian plans are likely to take into account Britain's agreement in principle to the installation here of 150 American built and manned ground-launched cruise missiles. The United States Air Force had a team in Britain in November, evaluating possible bases.

The incoming Conservative Government was already thinking of upgrading civil defence, stimulated by criticism from within the party while in opposition.

In Britain's Home Defence Gamble, published by the Conservative Political Centre, Mr Robin Hodgson and Mr Robert Banks, both MPs, said: "Since 1958 when home defence was last drastically cut back, successive governments have gambled that there will be enough time when international crises occur, to enable an effective policy for the home defence of the country to be reestablished. If the

gamble fails, millions of people will die unnecessarily."

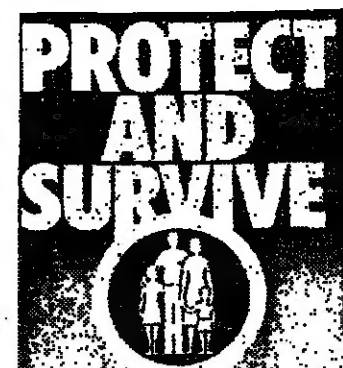
The Government is studying the results of a conference, at the Home Defence College, in York, in November. It was attended by representatives of government departments, local government and other authorities, including police and fire chiefs, and emergency planning officers.

Lord Belstead, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, told the House of Lords on December 6: "The results of that study will be taken into account as urgently as possible."

The Home Office also has a report by the County Emergency Planning Officers' Society, which says: "The society considers that the present state of civil defence preparedness falls far short of that warranted by the threat."

Britain's defence planners think that the United Kingdom's share of Soviet strike capability could amount to 180 to 200 megatons.

One megaton is the equivalent of one million tons of TNT. The effect of a one-megaton air burst over County Hall, London, would be: complete destruction of brick structures in a radius of one and three quarter miles;



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ignition of fabrics in a radius of eight miles; blistering burns in a radius of nine miles on those who had not taken proper shelter, and light damage to buildings in a radius of 11 miles.

London's plan is based on the assumption that a megatonnage of between 180 and 200 could be delivered to the United Kingdom by about 200 weapons, in the one-megaton range.

Such an attack would probably be delivered within 24 hours, planners think, and would comprise a mixture of both air and ground bursts.

For the purpose of survival planning, it is assumed that the population's survival rate would range from 60 per cent in the worst-affected areas, to 95 per cent in the least-affected areas. Loss of essential services and damage to installations, loss of power supplies and lack of raw materials, could be as high as 80 per cent.

Mr Marshall Sir Leslie Mavor, RAF (ret), Principal of the Home Defence College, gave a Nato civil defence training seminar in May, 1977, details of the likely effect of an attack on the United Kingdom.

He said: "The attack will be aimed at putting us quickly out of the reckoning by disabling the country militarily, politically and economically. The likely targets were spread unevenly, he said."

The chances were that those parts of the country holding no nuclear targets would come through more or less undamaged by blast or fire. Their difficulties would be caused by fall-out radiation, a large influx of refugees, survival without ex-

ternal supplies of food, energy, raw materials, finished products and other resources, and physical, social and economic isolation.

In those areas, communications systems would have largely survived. That should enable leaders at different levels to set about bringing order out of chaos, and organizing a co-ordinated operation for recovery.

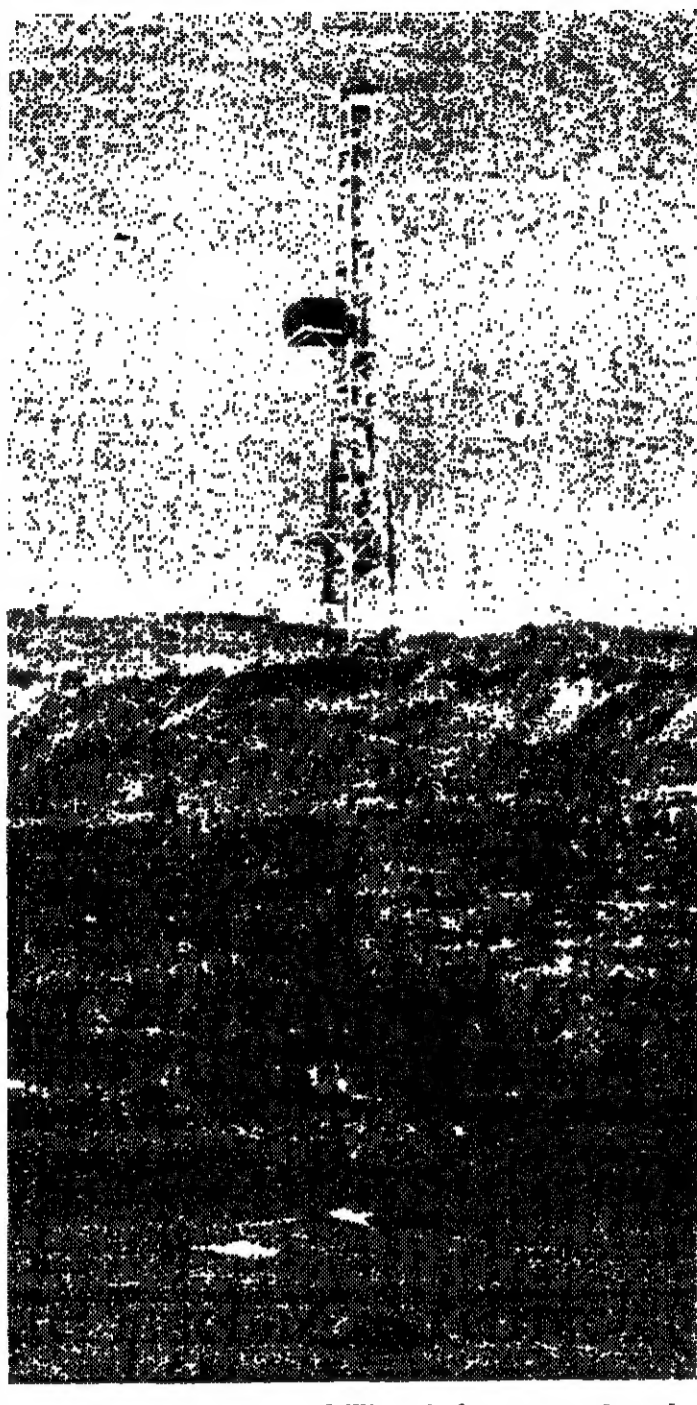
The main target areas would be so badly knocked about as to be beyond effective self-help. They would have to be more or less disconnected, and surviving areas recovered sufficiently to come to their aid.

Between those extremes, would be areas which, although hard-hit, would not have suffered so much that knock-out and would stand on a knife edge between recovery or collapse.

Those areas of decision were likely to make up most of the country and the way things went there might well decide the ultimate fate of the country as a whole.

That is the basis of Sir Leslie's argument for making sound preparations beforehand—an argument shared by all to do with civil defence.

Next: Inside regional defence HQ



Rig on the cliffs: A new drilling rig has appeared on the Dorset landscape, overlooking Kimmeridge Bay. Perched on top of the cliffs, the 100ft rig is part of the Purbeck oilfield, the largest onshore field in Britain being jointly explored and tapped by BP and British Gas.

## Five injured in explosion on oil tanker

From Our Own Correspondent  
Lerwick

Five injured men were lifted by helicopter from the 33,000-ton oil tanker Scenic as she drifted without power 30 miles off Sheelard yesterday. All had burns and one had an eye injury after a reported explosion in the engine room.

At the weekend the ship's master, Captain Arios Adonios, was fined £3,830 for illegally discharging oil at the Sullom Voe oil terminal. He told Lerwick sheriff court that it was an accident.

On Saturday night it was discovered that the Scenic had leaked 4,000 tons of oil over the legal limit on board. Complaints were also made that members of the crew were smoking as the ship arrived for loading.

Three tugs were sent to take the Scenic tow.

## Theft discovered of £40,000 library book

From Our Own Correspondent  
Edinburgh

Another theft of a valuable art book at the reference department of Edinburgh central library was discovered yesterday, bringing the total value of art volumes missing to £84,300.

Staff carried out an inventory after the theft of 15 volumes was discovered last week. The latest theft involved one volume of 600 prints of Jan Bieau maps worth about £40,000.

The books stolen were available to the public but had not been disturbed for more than two years and police said the theft could have taken place at any time in that period. Scotland Yard's art and antiquities squad has been notified of the thefts, the largest ever from a Scottish library.

The Irish Ballet Company will make its first appearance in Britain, at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, performing its version of *Playboy of the Western World*, with the music written and played by the Chieftains. Classical music will be represented by concerts from such orchestras as the RTE Symphony, the New Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra, while popular groups giving concerts will include not only The Chieftains, but also The Dubliners, Stockton's Wing and Planxty.

## Fruits of an entire culture for six-week festival

By Martin Huckerby  
Theatre Reporter

Next month in London a festival will be launched which, probably for the first time, will present virtually all of the leading artistic companies of another country. A *Sense of Ireland* will offer, from February 1 to March 15, the fruits of an entire culture.

Conservators of the arts, estimated at £550,000, the festival will involve 90 events in 44 different venues, covering the arts of both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland and ranging from popular music to political seminars, from conceptual art to classical music.

Most of the leading artistic organizations in Ireland will be represented in *A Sense of Ireland*, while popular groups giving concerts will include not only The Chieftains, but also The Dubliners, Stockton's Wing and Planxty.

The Irish Ballet Company will make its first appearance in Britain, at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, performing its version of *Playboy of the Western World*, with the music written and played by the Chieftains. Classical music will be represented by concerts from such orchestras as the RTE Symphony, the New Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra, while popular groups giving concerts will include not only The Chieftains, but also The Dubliners, Stockton's Wing and Planxty.

Art exhibitions featuring the works of more than 100 Irish artists, exhibitions of crafts, photography, architecture and archaeology and two series of film programmes are among the other events.

Unlike most such festivals, which are the result of government initiatives aimed at a sort of cultural diplomacy, *A Sense of Ireland* springs from the ideas of the Institute for Contemporary Arts in London for a short festival of Irish arts.

Mr William McAlister, the director of the ICA, said yesterday that when they started discussions with Irish arts organizations, the enthusiasm and commitment was such that the festival swiftly outgrew the confines of the ICA.

Although *A Sense of Ireland* is expected to make a net profit of £350,000, the organizers have now raised £326,000 from sponsors, mainly commercial organizations in Ireland.

There has been support from the Irish Government and from the Northern Ireland Department, although less has been heard from the Government in London. One of the festival's backers, Mr Eamonn Andrews, said yesterday that they had received telegrams of good wishes from official bodies in both England and Ireland.

Mr Andrews, expecting one from the Minister for Arts (Mr Norman St John-Stevens), said, as everyone knows his budget has been cut, he said.

## Nottingham Forest chief sent to jail

From Our Correspondent  
Nottingham

Stuart Dryden, chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for 12 months after a jury convicted him on four deception charges.

Mr Dryden, aged 53, a magistrate, of Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, was cleared of eight other charges of theft from the Post Office. Judge Kellack, QC, told Mr Dryden: "It was a fiddle against the public. It is absolutely necessary that the public should know that their trust in the Post Office will be protected."

Mr Dryden had pleaded not guilty to 12 charges of theft and deception involving £256 when he was sub-postmaster at Ruddington, near Nottingham, from 1971 to 1978.

He was convicted of two charges of obtaining £540 by deception and of furnishing false information, by providing remittance forms purporting to show that money had been paid out in wages to Mrs Audrey Dunsmore, aged 51, his sister-in-law. He was said to have paid her a holiday relief but she did not work in the sub-postoffice.

During his summing-up yesterday Judge Kellack called for an inquiry into allegations that the police deliberately avoided getting in touch with Mr Dryden's solicitor when Mr Dryden was interviewed in custody.

He added: "On the face of the matter there seems to have been a deliberate attempt by senior police officers to avoid the basic rights of an ordinary person."

Last night Mr Francis Reason, Mr Dryden's solicitor, said: "We are considering an appeal to the High Court."

## Police searching for doctor who vanished

By Stewart Tandler

Police in Britain and Ireland are searching for a doctor who vanished without trace last November. Northern Ireland, to his family in Sunbury, Surrey.

New Scotland Yard issued a description of Dr Andrew McGrath, aged 58, yesterday and the gold-coloured Vauxhall Victor he was driving. The doctor disappeared on November 22 as he drove from his hedge club in Weybridge to his home.

Dr McGrath is married with three children and details of his disappearance were not released until yesterday at the request of the family. Born in Ards, Northern Ireland, Dr McGrath often visited Ireland, but there is no trace of his having left Britain.

One of his brothers is a superintendent in the Garda Síochána and has travelled to Sunbury. Mr Christy Sugrue, another relative, tried to trace Dr McGrath.

The doctor has been a partner in a west London practice for 27 years. He is described as introspective and there is no history of depression or family difficulties.

Dr McGrath is described as being about six feet tall with dark brown, graying hair, blue eyes and a slim complexion. On the night he disappeared he was wearing a green sports jacket, green shirt and tie and brown trousers. The registration of his car is KLE 346N.

## Comedian injured

Frankie Howerd, aged 58, the comedian, was said to be still in hospital in Birmingham yesterday after slipping in snow and fracturing his pelvis on Monday.

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## HOME NEWS

## Inquiry opens into plan to raise lake levels to supply Windscale and west Cumbria

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

Controversial plans to raise the level of two of the Lake District's most picturesque stretches of water were outlined yesterday when a Department of the Environment inquiry opened in Whitehaven, Cumbria.

Environmentalists claim the proposed changes could seriously affect West Water and Ennerdale Water. The inquiry is expected to last for three months, with up to 50 witnesses scheduled to give evidence. It will deal with separate applications by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd and the North West Water Authority.

BNFL wants to extract a further seven million gallons of water a day from West Water, England's deepest lake, for use at the Windscale nuclear plant. At present it takes four million gallons daily. If the application is approved, the water level will be raised.

The water authority's application is to take an extra 12 million gallons of water a day from Ennerdale Water for use in industrial areas of Cumbria. It already takes 14 million gallons daily. That would involve building a pump station and other works to raise the level of the lake.

More than a dozen organizations and individuals have objected, including the Country-side Commission and the Lake District Special Planning Board, and have suggested a costlier scheme to extract water from a river.

Mr Denis Komlosy, the inquiry inspector, said in his opening that the whole of January and February would be taken up by the water authority and BNFL stating their cases. It would be March before objectors could put their arguments.

Yesterday was mainly devoted to the parties concerned giving brief outlines of the cases they would put at the inquiry.

Mr Ian Glidwell, QC, representing the water authority, whose evidence could take up to three weeks, said more water was needed for domestic and industrial supplies in west Cumbria, as well as for the Windscale plant. The authority had concluded that the Ennerdale scheme would best satisfy all three types of demand, he said.

It would be the least expensive scheme and have least effect on the environment.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, for BNFL, said that while the water was available for Windscale it could lead to the closure

of the processing plant: that was unacceptable. The ecology of West Water and Wastdale would not be harmed by the scheme.

But Mr Christopher Hordern, QC, for the special planning board, argued that each proposal involved "significant and detrimental changes".

The board had a primary and statutory duty to preserve and enhance the beauty of the national park, which was an area of unspoiled grandeur and of peace, he said.

The board's standpoint must be to resist all threats to the landscape.

He was supported by Mr David Hellard, secretary of the Cumbria branch of the National Farmers' Union, who expressed concern at the effects on farms and agriculture in general.

Farmer were worried about loss of land.

"The disturbance it will cause could be quite extensive, interfering with things such as drainage and access. We are seeking lots of answers to the effect of the proposals on existing farm enterprises."

The numbers at Whitehaven Civic Hall for the opening of the inquiry caused the hall's restaurant staff to run out of milk by lunchtime.

## Prisoner is refused access to solicitor

By Annabel Ferriman

A prisoner in Wandsworth prison, London, who alleges that he was beaten and threatened by warders, has been refused access to a solicitor because the rules lay down that he must protest to the Governor, the Board of Visitors and the Home Secretary before he can request legal advice.

The case, which is being taken up by the prisoner's Mr Ernest Roberts, Labour member of Parliament for Hackney, North and Stoke Newington, draws attention to Home Office rules which were introduced in 1976 and have been under attack by the National Council of Civil Liberties since.

Miss Hilary Kitchen, the council's legal officer, said yesterday that delays could have a most damaging effect on efforts to bring civil proceedings against prison staff and witnesses' memories and availability declined.

Mr Alvin Bay, aged 29, serving two and a half years for theft, was in solitary confinement when he alleges, the attacks took place on December 10 and 11.

His mother approached a solicitor, who on December 19 was given permission to see him, but permission was refused just before the visit was due on Christmas Eve.

Mr Bay has petitioned the Home Secretary and will not be allowed access to his solicitor until he has received a reply.

Mr Roberts, who visited Mr Bay on Friday, said yesterday that the rules should be changed. He said a person should not lose his basic democratic rights while in prison and should have the right to get legal advice.

He had received a letter from Lord Belstead, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, saying that the case was being looked into.

A prison chaplain who saw Mr Bay a week after the attack said that he was in a pitiful state, shivering because he had been in the strong room where the temperature was low. He could not meet the rule in the prison, but said Mr Bay had always told him the truth in the past, about his family and other matters.

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## WEST EUROPE



Wreckage from the restaurant strewn across the road today after the bomb blast which caused extensive damage.

## Vienna restaurant used by Opec envoys bombed

From Sue Masterman

Vienna, Jan 15

An Arab restaurant frequented by staff of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) headquarters and visiting Opec ministers was bombed by a bomb blast shortly before 5 am today. Two bombs, one in the basement bar, the other in the ground floor restaurant, devastated the restaurant and blew out hundreds of windows in the crowded centre of Vienna.

The explosion took place on the eve of the meeting of Opec finance ministers, who will

gather in Vienna tomorrow to discuss the chaotic situation in the oil price market.

Since December, 1975, when 11 Opec oil ministers were seized in a terrorist raid directed by the notorious Carlos, the oil ministers in general and Shakh Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, in particular, have refused to meet in Vienna.

The finance ministers, however, continue to use the official Opec headquarters a few hundred yards from the bombed restaurant as their place of meeting.

Today's bomb attack was a blow to Austria's running battle to keep Opec headquarters in their city and not have it transferred to rival neutral centres, such as Stockholm.

Immediately after the attack Opec guards were posted on all Arab embassies and airline offices. The Opec building itself is permanently guarded by a squad of commandos.

Tonight there was no indication of the identity of the bombers, who broke into the restaurant through a door on the first floor, or of their motives. Austria has built up a

good relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which in turn has led to clashes with Israel.

One theory is that a group of Austrian right-wing extremists protesting against rising oil prices might be at work.

There was no indication from Opec that there would be any change in the planned finance ministers meeting. Ministers will be discussing the situation over oil prices since the oil ministers failed to reach agreement in December and the further development of the Opec Special Fund.

## Andalusia adds its voice to the growing clamour for autonomy

From Harry Debelius

Seville, Jan 15

Even King Juan Carlos appears to have been surprised by the pressure for autonomy in this vast southern region of sunshine and siesta. During his visit to the south early this month, he did not take up the cry that was in the throats and hearts of his audiences. "Viva Andalusia!" until the second day of his trip.

Perhaps it was because the police did their best at several points to lull the bearers of green and white banners signifying the attempt to win autonomy for this agricultural region.

Yet no one could hide the reality from the monarch after the Mayor of Granada—the city in which the Catholic monarchs welded Spain into a nation with their victory over the Moorish King Boabdil in 1492—skipped the formulas of polite welcome and launched immediately into a tirade for the region's needs.

He ended with an appeal to the ruler to use his influence to make sure that Andalusians get as good a home-rule deal as richer regions like the Basque Country and Catalonia.

Andalusia will vote on February 28 in a referendum to determine whether its people want home rule. There is little doubt about the affirmative outcome.

Unlike the "historic" regions—the Basque provinces, Catalonia and Galicia—Andalusia is constitutionally obliged to add

another step to the autonomy process. Whereas there was only one referendum in the "historic" regions, in which citizens accepted or rejected the home-rule statute worked out by their elected representatives, there will be two referendums in Andalusia and other regions—one to determine if the people want autonomy and a second to determine if they accept the statute offered them.

Andalusians fear that central-minded politicians in Madrid would make it even more difficult for them if they could, and the people of the regions north of here, have no qualms about using the word.

Regardless of what it is called, Andalusia wants it, according to Señor Escudé. "Look at all the aspects—economic, social and cultural—he said. "I think there's one fundamental advantage, a substantial one, for those who believe in a federal or decentralized state—a people regarding their consciousness of being a people. As far as I'm concerned that's the basic benefit for our people."

The interview, which took place some time before the King's visit, brought out the fact that, with the exception of

the far right, all the parties in Andalusia favour home rule and as soon as possible.

"Federalism" is a nasty word in some Spanish circles, summoning up spectres of the divisive destruction of three Spanish civil wars in the past century. The Madrid Government avoids it altogether, using instead the phrase "regional autonomy," which also found its way into the constitution of post-Franco Spain. Yet the direction in which Spain is heading is federalist, and the Andalusians, even more so than the people of the regions north of here, have no qualms about using the word.

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## Hijack ends through persuasion

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Jan 15

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, said today he was satisfied at the way in which the hijacking of an Alitalia DC9 airliner was settled, without loss of life or damage.

His Government had, he said, chosen the path of prudence, and moderation. This should not, he added, be mistaken for weakness.

The lone hijacker is being held in Palermo prison after being persuaded early today to surrender. He was found to be unarmed. The Alitalia DC9 was on a flight from Rome to Tunis with a crew of six and 84 passengers, including 11 British subjects.

The hijacker, aged 28, who said his name was Farid Ben Marshri Zaiche from Gafsa, Tunisia, took control of the aircraft as it was nearing Tunis. It flew around the Mediterranean trying to find a place to land after it was refused permission to touch down at Tripoli and Malta. It finally landed at Palermo to a refusal.

The hijacker claimed he was acting on behalf of a Tunisian opposition group called "Les Vivants". He demanded the release of 25 political prisoners held in Tunisia in return for freeing the hostages.

An official from the Foreign Ministry and a trade unionist helped persuade him to give himself up.

## Protest by taxi drivers halts Paris traffic

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 15

Confronting the nuisance of the rail strike which reduced traffic yesterday and today to one train out of three on the main lines, and between 30 and 40 per cent of suburban services, Paris taxi drivers demonstrated this morning at the Esplanade des Invalides against the low rate of increase of fares decided by the Government.

One thousand, out of a total of 14,300 Paris taxis, parked on the Esplanade bumper to bumper, and effectively brought to a halt all traffic in the area, while their drivers held a meeting.

In the afternoon, the convoy of cars made its way to the Finance Ministry, blocking the Rue de Rivoli, while a delegation was received by an official of the budget department.

At the head of the convoy, several demonstrators on foot compelled taxis which did not take part in the protest action to stop and drop their passengers. A few eggs were thrown at others as they drove by.

The drivers claim that the 10 per cent fare increase authorized from January 15, plus another 5 per cent next July does not compensate for the increase in petrol prices and social insurance contributions. They demand an immediate increase of 15 per cent, and a tax-free quota of 5,000 litres of petrol a year.

The rail strike will be followed on Thursday by a postal strike, called by all three main trade union organizations.

Some 20,000 postal workers are due to take part in it. A demonstration will be held in front of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs against the suppression of distribution of telegrams, pneumatiques and express letters in Paris on Sunday, which came into force on January 2.

The strikers also want every other Saturday free, the reduction of the working week to 35 hours over five days, and an additional 3,000 staff.

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## Rift over Covent Garden

By John Young

Planning Reporter

The public hearing which started yesterday into the alleged misuse of funds by the Greater London Council in acquiring property in Covent Garden reflects a growing rift between the council and the Covent Garden Community Association.

The association feels that the council is abandoning the commitment made in its 1978 plan, to ensure a healthy balance of commercial, industrial and residential development.

Instead, the area is being handed over piece by piece to speculators, who will eventually destroy its charm and character.

Mr James Monahan, an architect who works for the association, concedes that the conversion and renovation of former market buildings for new uses gives the impression that the area is alive and well.

But, he claims, a recent survey showed that nearly 90 of the 126 buildings are occupied by showrooms, offices, wine bars, restaurants and clothes shops, and only four could be said to contain an element of light industrial activity.

Landlords are able to obtain rents of up to £25 a square foot, he says. One of the worst offenders is the G.L.C., which owns nearly 14 acres of Covent Garden, and whose rents are so high that they preclude many of the activities described in the plan.

The association has identified 14 sites which are in the process of, or scheduled for, redevelopment. Of those schemes, only one, the G.L.C.'s restoration of the central market building, receives its qualified approval, while one other, the Royal Opera House extension, is described as "without comment."

The G.L.C. admits having departed from its plan, but insists that the plan was never intended to be "cut and dried".

It maintains that the changes will mean no overall housing loss and that, while the priority for applications for light industry, the tendency is for industry to move out of London.

## Couple jailed for cruelty to son lose appeal

James Sheppard and his wife, Jennifer, who were jailed for cruelty to a baby son who died, lost appeal against conviction in the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The judges, including Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, held that the state of the law relating to "wilful neglect" in child cruelty cases, was such that the Court of Appeal could not interfere.

But the court felt that the issue should be reviewed by the House of Lords, Lord Widgery said. They were allowed unconditional bail, and freed pending appeal to the Lords later this year.

Mr Sheppard, aged 21, a loader, and his wife, Jennifer, aged 23, of Kingsway, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, were jailed for six and nine months respectively at Northampton Crown Court on November 26 last.

They were convicted of cruelty to their son, Martin, aged 16 months, by wilfully neglecting him. The boy died in January, 1979, from malnutrition. At that time they were described as "having done their incompetent best" as parents.

Lord Widgery said the couple contended that the word "wilful" in the context of wilful neglect under the provision of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, required knowledge by the prosecution of parents that their actions would be injurious.

But legal precedent was quite clear that to go that far in child neglect cases, the judge said. That was the state of the law and the trial judge could not be blamed for adopting it.

Appeals against sentence were adjourned.

## Jail for steel man 'at centre of a web of corruption'

From Arthur Osmao

Lincoln

Brian Holland, aged 49, a former £7,000-a-year plant services manager at the Scunthorpe works of the British Steel Corporation, was sentenced at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday to two years' imprisonment and was told by Mr Justice Peter Pain: "It is quite plain you were at the centre of a web of corruption."

Four other men also received prison sentences for their part in corruptly giving inducements so that their contracting companies could enjoy or continue to enjoy work for the corporation. Three companies were fined.



## WEST EUROPE

## Three ways offered to EEC of meeting British budget demand

From David Wood

Strasbourg, Jan 15

The line being adopted by the Government in current EEC ministerial talks on how to achieve Mrs Thatcher's objective of "a broad budgetary balance" has been set out in a Treasury document now in the hands of Conservative MPs in the European Parliament. It is expected to be developed when the Italian Prime Minister, as president of the Council of Ministers, pays his first visit to the Parliament here tomorrow.

At the Dublin summit meeting in November Mrs Thatcher rejected the Commission's offer of £350m ("a third of the loaf") and insisted on £1,000m during the financial year of 1980-81.

The Treasury guidance to the British MPs suggests that the simplest way of cutting Britain's deficit with the Community would be to establish a "revenue mechanism" by which Britain's receipts would be increased from a special fund within the EEC budget to a given proportion of Community average receipts, or in relation to relative gross national products.

Such a mechanism, it is stated, would build on an existing Community instrument, and would also be self-correcting since the refund would fall if British receipts drew nearer to the Community average.

Two other devices, by implication less favoured, are mentioned. Firstly, existing Community policies such as the regional development fund or ex-

penditure on the common agricultural policy could be reoriented exclusively or preponderantly towards Britain. Secondly, there could be new or extended EEC policies in areas where the lion's share of the benefits would fall to the United Kingdom.

The three proposals evidently summarise the brief being used by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, in their circuit of the capitals of the Nine in preparation for the next summit meeting in late February or March, when Mrs Thatcher expects full satisfaction.

According to the Treasury, the Government has no set views on which of the three possible courses would be the best for the Community as a whole. The Treasury document adds: "Any method or combination of methods that reduced the United Kingdom net contribution by a large enough amount and on a lasting basis would be acceptable."

Although supporting the restructuring of the EEC budget, the Treasury argues it would be a mistake to think that a quick solution to Britain's problem lies there. Expenditure on common agricultural policy guarantees "must be contained and reduced, but a 50 per cent reduction by 1981 would have relatively small effect in reducing the net British contribution."

"For the foreseeable future," the Treasury says, "much more than early moves towards restructuring will be needed for the United Kingdom's problem to be satisfactorily resolved."

## Mrs Thatcher ready for 'genuine compromise'

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mrs Thatcher admitted in the Commons yesterday that the Government had little room left for manoeuvre in its aim of achieving a broad balance between Britain's contributions to the EEC budget and receipts from it.

In spite of repeated attempts by Labour front benches, including Mr Michael Foot, deputy leader of the party, and Mr Peter Shore, opposition spokesman on European affairs, to get an assurance from the Prime Minister that the Government's determination was not wavering, Mrs Thatcher left no

doubt that there had been a retreat from her pre-Dublin stance.

She told MPs that she was going "for genuine compromise" although she added that the Government had not abandoned its objective.

It was clear to the House that, perhaps for tactical reasons or the sensitivity of EEC heads of State, the Government has abandoned at least the phrase "broad balance" if not the aim.

Mrs Thatcher yesterday spoke of the need to press for vastly increased receipts from the Community to reduce substantially this country's net contribution to the budget.

## AFGHANISTAN

## Lord Carrington will be told of objections to military aid for Pakistan

## India fears US arms may be turned against it

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, Jan 15

On the eve of Lord Carrington's arrival here on the most delicate stage of his tour to find out south Asia's reactions to the Afghan situation, India is emphasising its objections to Pakistan accepting American arms.

Talks have been going on between the two Governments on ways of stabilising the situation in the region, a spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry said here today. This is in line with Mrs Gandhi's view that the introduction of United States arms to help Pakistan defend itself against possible Soviet expansion would "destabilise" the region.

The British Foreign Secretary will be calling on Mrs Gandhi shortly after he arrives from Pakistan tomorrow evening. But Britain's views are to be quickly followed by those of France, with its differing emphasis (as the Indians have eagerly sensed) to be put by President Giscard d'Estaing who arrives on January 25 and, as

office yesterday, on Thursday together with senior Indian officials. There is a strong impression here, and not only among Indians, that the United States' decision to help Pakistan as a result of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was made without any consideration of its effects on India.

Mr Robert Cohen, the American Ambassador, is back after hasty consultations in Washington with a message from President Carter to Mrs Gandhi on the proposed United States arms deliveries to Pakistan along with economic aid.

Lord Carrington will therefore have the advantage of being the first to show a serious concern by the West for India's views, whose importance has only been heightened by Mrs Gandhi's triumph in the elections.

There is therefore the risk that, while India is being followed by those of France, with its differing emphasis (as the Indians have eagerly sensed) to be put by President Giscard d'Estaing who arrives on January 25 and, as

now seems probable, by those of Mr Andropov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, towards the end of the month. There are rumours here that Lord Carrington might try to persuade India and Pakistan to agree to participate in joint defence arrangements, but the External Affairs Ministry spokesman emphasised that India was averse to defence treaties in the area. He reiterated that India's only desire was for restoration of normal relations with Pakistan.

The central problem facing Lord Carrington will be persuading Mrs Gandhi to drop her beliefs that India faces a grave danger to its security from the United States attempt to supply arms to Pakistan rather than the Soviet action in Afghanistan.

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office yesterday, on Thursday together with senior Indian officials. There is a strong impression here, and not only among Indians, that the United States' decision to help Pakistan as a result of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was made without any consideration of its effects on India.

These are that Pakistan might use the arms against India—as happened in two wars which have become part of the folk memory—and China. The recent visit of the American Defence Secretary to Peking may have looked senseless from Washington, but in the Indian context that only helped the Russians.

In contrast to other countries Lord Carrington visited, India has benefited from a public debate on the Soviet intervention. Mrs Gandhi's attitude is crucial at the moment, but Mr Jagjivan Ram, the defeated Janata Party leader and twice Defence Minister, has denounced the dangers for India of the Soviet action, while the former Deputy External Affairs Minister attacked Mrs Gandhi for not consulting India's neighbours before taking her pro-Moscow stand.

Basically, Mrs Gandhi's return to power could prove damaging for vital Western interests in the region, but the United States failed to seize the opportunity during the Janata years to give Indians any substantial reasons for favouring it.

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## Pakistan believes Soviet action has upset balance of the region

From David Szanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Islamabad, Jan 15

General Zia's key point was that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, formerly a buffer state between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, represented a total change in the balance of the region. But Pakistan's army was capable of defending its borders, he told a press conference.

Tomorrow the Foreign Secretary will get a closer look at the trouble spots when he visits a camp for Afghan refugees and goes to the Khyber Pass.

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Mrs Thatcher yesterday spoke of the need to press for vastly increased receipts from the Community to reduce substantially this country's net contribution to the budget.

Answering press questions in relaxed and fluent style, General Zia hardly gave the impression of a man beset by alarm or doubt. He declined to specify what kind of military assistance or economic aid he would like from the West, noting merely that talks with the United States were well in hand. So far as he understood, there were no political "strings" attached.

Military requirements, he said, would be assessed in a practical way, by military men. It is generally assumed in this context that behind the scenes Saudi Arabia would be ready to help finance Pakistan's defence needs.

The object of Lord Carrington's visit, as General Zia put it, was to give Britain a clear understanding of the geo-political situation.

With refugees from Afghanistan now numbering 450,000 and likely to reach 500,000 by the end of January, General Zia said that more international aid was needed.

The president shed little light on his political plans inside Pakistan, merely observing that he did not want to perpetuate the military regime. The indefinite postponement of elections was announced last October.

Chinese visitor: Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, will go to Pakistan on Friday for a four-day visit, diplomatic sources said today. —Reuter.

## EEC ministers disagree on butter sales to Moscow

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Jan 15

EEC foreign ministers today condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as "a dangerous interference in the internal affairs of a non-aligned country belonging to the Islamic world."

The Soviet action, the foreign ministers declared, was "a threat to peace, security and stability in the region, including the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East and the Arab world." They expressed the conviction that "detente is indivisible and has a global dimension."

There was much less unity among them, however, about how far they should go in reinforcing the commercial penalties imposed on the Soviet Union by President Carter.

The majority view appeared to be that the Community should confine itself to an undertaking not to fill the gap left in Russian supplies by the American embargo on the sale of 17 million tonnes of grain.

Attempts by Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, to get agreement for a ban on curbside surplus EEC butter to the Soviet Union were reported to have failed.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the NATO Council meeting here that concerted action against the Games would be a serious blow to Soviet prestige.

States was not a supplier of butter to the Soviet Union. The EEC would not be undermining any American sanctions.

The ministers did agree, however, that the fixing of export subsidies for butter should continue to be suspended for the time being.

This will not necessarily prevent all sales of butter, but it will introduce an element of stability in the market. Traders unlikely to want to export in bulk.

The European Commission was instructed to look at further measures for controlling exports of butter and other agricultural goods "while respecting traditional trade flows."

The Nine also agreed to give urgent consideration to a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for some \$55m (£25m) for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Disagreement on games: NATO countries today failed to agree on a British proposal that the alliance should take action against the holding of the Olympic Games in Moscow this year.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the NATO Council meeting here that concerted action against the Games would be a serious blow to Soviet prestige.

## Premier holds fire on Olympics

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

London, Jan 15

In spite of advance Whitehall billing that Mrs Thatcher was about to join President Carter in urging that the Olympic Games be moved from Moscow, she did not take a Commons opportunity yesterday to say so.

However, authoritative sources insisted that the Prime Minister had prepared remarks to the effect that Britain would not support the Games if they were held in Moscow, but that she would support the Games if they were held elsewhere.

It remained likely, the sources said, that the Prime Minister would follow the United States if the Americans were successful in persuading their athletes not to go.

But the Government recognised, it was said, that it had no powers to stop athletes from going to Moscow, and it wanted to avoid empty gestures.

To those suspicions that the Government was making empty boasts or promises about the Olympics or joining in American sanctions against Iran, it was insisted that the Government was active in trying to coordinate Western responses in both cases.

It is unclear what though, if any, the Government has given to the Winter Olympics next month in the United States at Lake Placid.

Backbench MPs, principally Conservatives, have been active in urging the removal of the Games from Moscow because of the intervention in Afghanistan.

By yesterday evening more than 60 MPs had signed a motion by Mr Tony Marlow (C, Northampton) calling for the Games to be moved to a neutral venue.

The opportunity Mrs Thatcher refrained from taking came at Question Time when Mr Robert Dunn (C, Dartford) chose to ask her whether the terms of reference of the Olympics regarding amateurs and professionals should not be reviewed.

Mrs Thatcher contented herself with saying that it would be a very rash person who got involved in that topic.

Tass sarcasm: The Russians only learnt officially today from



A convoy of Soviet lorries in the Salang Pass.

## Russians kept ignorant of size of vote against them

From Our Own Correspondent

Moscow, Jan 15

The Russians today denounced the overwhelming vote against them in the General Assembly as a threat to the security of Afghanistan and obvious intervention in the affairs of a sovereign member of the United Nations.

The embarrassment and humiliation at the size of the vote is clear from Soviet reporting of the debate, where only the speeches of the Soviet Union's allies were given.

A total of 104 countries voted against them. The Russians today denounced the overwhelming vote against them in the General Assembly as a threat to the security of Afghanistan and obvious intervention in the affairs of a sovereign member of the United Nations.

Tass said the resolution on the "artificially concocted" Afghan question had been imposed on the United Nations by the United States, China and their allies. It described the discussion as "an attempt to draw the international community into actions aimed at intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

Absent (12)—Bhutan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Dominica, Libya, Romania, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan.—Reuter.

statement, Tass added: "Not all delegations could grasp the essence of the developments that have taken place of late in Afghanistan."

The Russians can now be expected to step up the already intense propaganda campaign throughout the Third World to justify their intervention.

The voting in the General Assembly voting there were 18 opposed to the motion and 18 abstentions and 12 were absent.

Opposed (18)—Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, East Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukraine, Soviet Union, Vietnam.

Abstentions (18)—Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Congo, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Sao Tome e Principe, Syria, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

Absent (12)—Bhutan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Dominica, Libya, Romania, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan.—Reuter.

It is known that Mr Botha, who is also Defence Minister, relies heavily on his military advisers for intelligence appraisals.

A growing dispute is developing in South Africa over Mr McGiven's disclosures that Boss, the runner of Dons,

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## OVERSEAS

## Kennedy aides rebut fresh findings on Chappaquiddick

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 15

Aides to Senator Edward Kennedy have sharply criticised new scientific evidence which is alleged to contradict his version of some of the events on the night Miss Mary Jo Kopechne drowned in his car at Chappaquiddick more than 10 years ago.

After conducting new computer tests on the accident, the *Reader's Digest* magazine claimed in an article published this week that Senator Kennedy's car was travelling faster than he maintained when it plunged off a bridge connecting Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts to a lonely beach.

The article also said that the senator was wrong when he claimed that after the accident he was nearly swept out to sea and drowned while swimming back from the island to his hotel on the neighbouring island of Martha's Vineyard.

But the article said the water current would have pulled him in the opposite direction.

An article in today's *Washington Star* newspaper, also based on expert testimony, maintained the car was travelling at 30 mph when it plunged off the bridge.

When the *Reader's Digest* was published yesterday morning, the senator's aides declined to comment. But with just a week to go before the first real test of Senator Kennedy's popularity as a potential presidential candidate—next Monday's precinct caucuses in Iowa—the spokesmen changed their minds and called a press conference late last night.

Mr Stephen Smith, the senator's brother-in-law and campaign manager, said the magazine had not given Mr Kennedy a fair chance to reply to the charges. He claimed that the story was "seriously in error", and scientific experts were on hand to contradict the magazine's evidence.

According to *Reader's Digest*, the senator's car was travelling between 30 mph and 38 mph when it approached the narrow bridge and not the 20 mph claimed by Mr Kennedy.

The article also alleged that the senator saw the bridge when he was at least 500 feet away, that he braked suddenly, and that his car was still travelling at between 22 mph and 28 mph when it left the bridge. This contradicted the senator's account that he failed to see the bridge until the split second before he was on it.

On the direction of the water current between Chappaquiddick and Martha's Vineyard, both the *Reader's Digest* and the *Washington Star* cited the evidence of respected oceanologists that silt had changed normal tidal movements in the water channel at the time of the accident. This was disputed at the press conference by equally eminent experts produced by the senator's staff.

When Mr Kennedy announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last autumn, a spate of articles appeared in the press about the Chappaquiddick events. He and his supporters hoped the public would quickly become bored with the story, but it does not seem to be the case.

## Senators considering new guidelines for CIA

Washington, Jan 15.—The White House and the Senate Intelligence Committee are relatively close to agreement on a charter that would codify restraints on the Central Intelligence Agency but give it more flexibility by relaxing some existing restraints, according to a key member of the committee.

Senator Walter D. Huddleston, a Kentucky Democrat, said that the present version of the legislation would limit the application of the Freedom of Information Act to the CIA, restricting the right to lodge requests for information to United States citizens seeking personal data about themselves.

He said a draft of the current practice of foreign governments, especially those in the Soviet bloc, of using the Act to extract information from the agency.—New York Times News Service.

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## South Africa's nuclear blast that never was

Washington, Jan 15.—A mysterious "nuclear explosion" in the southern hemisphere, according to a group of United States experts whose report will be released next week, never took place.

The report, which was widely thought to have been caused by South Africa—probably never took place, according to a group of United States experts whose report will be released next week.

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## OVERSEAS

## Israeli and Egyptian newspapers go on sale in the two countries for the first time today

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Jan 15

A small but significant piece of journalistic history will be made in Egypt tomorrow when Israeli newspapers appear openly for sale in an Arab country for the first time since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

As part of the gradual improvement in relations between Israel and Egypt, it was formally agreed last month that a selection of about 1,000 copies of daily newspapers from the two countries would be sold on news stands on either side of the border in the ordinary way.

The first consignments left the printing presses in Jerusalem and Cairo today en route for the main border crossing point near the Sinai capital of El Arish, which was handed back to the Egyptians earlier this year.

After being exchanged, they will continue their journey by bus and appear for regular sale in Egypt, Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories a day later than their original publication.

Although the number of papers involved is relatively small, the move is seen as one of the most positive yet to have taken place.

According to a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official, the agreement was achieved by individual Egyptian and Israeli

newspaper executives with "the blessing and assistance of both governments." It is the first commercial agreement to have been signed as part of the peace process begun at Camp David.

The bulk of the papers ordered from Israel consists of the lively and well-informed English-language daily, the *Jerusalem Post* which has been a consistent supporter of the peace initiative. Israel's two Arabic-language dailies will also be sent in reasonable quantities but with a very small selection of Hebrew papers has been included as the only demand for them is expected to come from Egyptian universities and the Egyptian intelligence services.

All Israeli papers are subject to official military censorship, but this does not prevent them from containing regular and often harsh criticism of the Israeli Government.

On arrival in Egypt, they are expected to be subjected to the same kind of censorship as that exercised by the Egyptian Information Ministry over all foreign publications. This includes occasionally the banning of individual editions deemed to contain articles offensive to the country or to President Sadat.

The exchange plan, Mr. Ari Rath, editor of the *Jerusalem Post* said: "We will be in the same boat as many other

prestigious publications from around the world and we will not take offence. It is all part of the game."

According to a spokesman for the Israeli censor, the Egyptian publication will not be subject to censorship when they are sold in Israel and to the 1,100,000 Arabs living on the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

To mark the historic exchange, the *Jerusalem Post* this morning carried a special 32-page supplement on Egypt and Israel which included many advertisements written in that arrangement are already under way for the paper to receive advertisements from Egypt on a regular basis.

The paper also ran a leading article which stated: "In the most literal sense, this new deal will bring Egypt and Israel closer together. Israeli and Egyptian readers need not always like what they read in the other country's press, but at least they will get their information at first hand, rather than sifted through a tendentious sieve. They may also, in the process, make some pleasant discoveries about their next door neighbours."

The semi-official Cairo daily *Al-Ahram* commented on the forthcoming exchange with a pledge that it would continue to support Palestinian efforts towards self-determination. Arabic script. It is understood



A rare scene outside the American Embassy in Tehran—a street empty of demonstrators.

## Bonn worried by possible US action in Gulf

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Jan 15

The West German Government today made it known that it was deeply concerned at the possibility of a blockade or mining of the Gulf by the United States. Bonn believes that such action could lead to a military confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Government officials said they were afraid that the idea of some form of blockade might prove so popular in the United States that it could lead to a military confrontation with the Soviet Union.

At the same time, while it wished to give every support to the United States efforts for the release of the hostages in Iran, it would have difficulty in joining voluntary economic sanctions against Iran. West Germany has big commercial interests and a sizable community there, and in the absence of strong pressure on the other.

Like President Carter, the Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition is facing elections this year and is seeing its peace and détente policy, one of the main major achievements in its 10 years in power, threatened by the situation in Afghanistan and now, possibly, in the Gulf.

West Germany is also highly sensitive to any East-West tension because of the vulnerability of West Berlin and the effect on relations with East Germany. It is trying to exercise a moderating influence on the United States.

At the same time, while it wished to give every support to the United States efforts for the release of the hostages in Iran, it would have difficulty in joining voluntary economic sanctions against Iran. West Germany has big commercial interests and a sizable community there, and in the absence of strong pressure on the other.

some other kind of "coverage" before it can carry them out. Mr. Warren Christopher, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, is due here tomorrow for talks with the German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

Mr. Schmidt is expected to make a statement on the subject in a "state of the nation" speech to Parliament on Thursday.

Mr. Jaleddin Farsi, aged 47, candidate of the pro-clergy Islamic Republican Party (IRP), said in a letter to the party newspaper: "After studying all aspects of the issue, I feel it my duty to suggest my withdrawal from presidential nomination."

Mr. Sadeq, who said that certain journalists had written unfairly, "forgotten their real responsibility" and sent "lies and partial reports," was explaining the authorities' complaints against American, British and West German journalists working in Iran whose cases were "being studied."

Journalists prepare: About 100 American journalists, half the British and West German press corps in Iran, today prepared to leave the country after the Iranian authorities ordered their expulsion. —Reuters.

## Judge 'has no power' to try Mrs Gandhi

From Our Own Correspondent  
Delhi, Jan 15

Only one day after Mrs Gandhi took over as Indian Prime Minister, a judge in a special court set up by the former Janata Government to try her for alleged abuses of power ruled today that he had no jurisdiction in two cases concerning her.

Mr Justice M. L. Jain, who had been conducting the cases in the weeks before the general election, today sent back the most important case, involving the Maruti car plant of the Prime Minister's younger son, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, to the Delhi magistrates' court where it started.

In this case Mrs Gandhi and two of her staff were charged with harassing four officials of the Industry Ministry.

The judge found a suitable technicality that the previous Government's declaration setting up the special courts, ironically intended to expedite proceedings against the Prime Minister, should have been signed or approved by the Indian President, and not only by individual ministers. The Janata Ministers of Law and Home Affairs had acted under provisions which had not been allocated to them.

The second case concerned the arrest of the late Bhim Sen Sacher, a veteran Congress leader from Punjab who had simply written a letter to Mrs Gandhi protesting against the emergency.

Mr Justice Jain directed that the prosecution should take "such steps as may be permissible under law." Mrs Gandhi's new Law Minister, Mr Shivshankar, indicated yesterday that he proposed to wind up the two special courts. An eager judge today started the process for him.

Congratulations: President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan today congratulated Mrs Gandhi on becoming Prime Minister again and expressed a wish to accelerate the process of improving relations called for in the Simla agreement of 1973.

## Canadian professor admits he spied for the Russians

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 15

Mr Hugo Hambleton, a professor of economics at Laval University in Quebec City, has confessed that he was an unpaid Soviet secret agent for 30 years. He was first recruited by the Russians when he worked for Canadian military intelligence in West Germany after the Second World War. But he did not become an active agent until contacted by the KGB in 1961 while in Spain.

However, he says he does not expect to be charged as a spy because the information he passed to the Russians was not classified as secret.

"On that basis I don't think I'm in any real danger," he said in an interview in Quebec City yesterday. "I had no access to secret documents. I had no information that they (the Russians) couldn't have got from a dozen other places."

Professor Hambleton, aged 57, acknowledged earlier, however, that he was being "debriefed" by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) who had taken possession of his passport.

RCMP counter-intelligence officers seized a short-wave radio at the home of his 31-year-old daughter in November. They also took maps, the diary in which he recorded

all his missions, a large number of books and an empty five-gallon gasoline container.

The question of whether to make charges in the strange case is now in the hands of the Justice Department, an RCMP spokesman said today. The decision was expected within a few weeks.

Professor Hambleton has also admitted that he provided the Russians with information on Latin American and Middle East economics. He made trips in July and August to Saudi Arabia and Israel to study economic and political conditions in both countries.

"I never got any money and I never asked for any," he said. "Once you start accepting money, they're got you. I said his spying had been on a 'very off-and-on basis.'"

Professor Hambleton has denied that he is a communist. During the war he served with General de Gaulle's Free French forces. His mother, his estranged wife, three children and a sister all live in Ottawa. The sister works for the Secretary of State Department as a transcriber in the House of Commons. Some of the information he passed to the Russians came from her. He told the *Ottawa Journal* at the weekend.

## Opposition plan to boycott Panama election

Panama City, Jan 15—Most

Panamanian opposition parties plan to boycott the elections for an expanded National Legislative Council scheduled for August.

This comes at a time when Panama faces economic problems, as well as continuing student protests against the presence in the country of the deposed Shah of Iran.

The opposition parties say the reason for their planned election boycott is to deny the Government the trappings of democratic legitimacy.

"We will not take part in the election unless legislative and other institutions are given more powers and independence, because to do so would only give legitimacy to these puppet institutions," Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, the spokesman for the National Opposition Front, has said.

The front groups 10 political parties, many of whom cannot yet meet the election registration requirements, and none of whom has contested an election since 1968.

A senior official of President Aristides Royo's administration said: "The real reason opposition parties are hesitant to take part in the election is because they are a spent force."

## El Salvador gunmen leave embassy and free hostages

San Salvador, Jan 15—Leftist

gunmen have released two ambassadors and four other hostages held at the Panamanian Embassy since Friday, after the Salvadoran authorities freed seven prisoners from jail.

Señor David Pare, the Ambassador of Panama and Señor Alejandro Alvarado Piza, the Ambassador of Costa Rica, were set free unharmed by the Popular League of February 26, an anti-government left-wing group.

About 50 armed members of the league stormed the embassy on Friday and took the hostages to demand the release of seven of their colleagues arrested by security forces.

Also freed were two consuls, Señora Maria Teresa Barrera of Panama and Señor Santos David López of Costa Rica.

## Filipino cardinal pleads for reconciliation

Manila, Jan 15—More

killings are taking place in the southern Philippines than during the critical period of the Second World War, the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Sin, said here today.

He told the Foreign Correspondents' Association at a lunch that many Muslims and Christians were being killed all over Mindanao Island. "I do not know who is doing the killing, but people just disappear," he said. He quoted a figure of 50,000 people have died in a Muslim-led insurrection in Mindanao and Sulu

islands against President Marcos' martial law regime.

Cardinal Sin, the leader of the Philippines' 35 million Roman Catholics, gave his support for a proposed three-year transition period to end martial law, put forward by Mr Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

Mr Aquino, who is on extended parole from prison, and President Marcos would have to reconcile themselves soon to save the country from civil war, he added.

which would oversee the transition.

Cardinal Sin said that the Pope's planned pastoral visit to the Philippines would certainly go ahead.

The Pope is to officiate at the beatification of Lorenzo Ruiz who was tortured and executed in Japan in 1637 for refusing to give up his faith. He is the first Filipino to be beatified. Flood losses: More than 30,000 people have lost their homes in floods in eastern parts of the Mindanao Island after more than a week of torrential rain, the Philippines Red Cross said today. —Agence France-Press

## Refusal to work can lead to imprisonment in the Soviet Union

## Russia launches campaign against workshy

From Michael Birnson  
Moscow, Jan 14

Yuri Antonov has lived in a small room in his parents' house in Voronezh for over a year. About once a week he goes outside, takes a few breaths of fresh air and dashes back indoors, glancing round to make sure no one has seen him.

Every month or so a policeman comes to the house and knocks. Is he still there? he asks. The mother shouts back roughly: "No. Go away. You can't come in without a warrant. We know the law."

The policeman goes away, knowing the son was hiding inside but without giving any proof from the neighbours. One day he is resolved he will get him.

Yuri Antonov, a 33-year-old plumber, is not an army deserter. He has not done anything for which he would be punished by the West. Indeed, he has not done anything at all for a year, and that is why he faces imprisonment if the police catch him.

In a land where work is the legal and social duty of every healthy citizen, he is one of a growing number of people who are officially categorized as workshy.

To refuse to work is not simply a social disgrace in the Soviet Union. It is a criminal offence which can lead to prosecution under anti-parasitic legislation.

But Yuri Antonov would rather spend his life cooped up for fear of being seen than apply for one of the many plumbing jobs being advertised for factories in Voronezh. He has already been warned by the police to give up his parasitic way of life, but his mother into a local park attendant.

The father of Nikolai, a parasite in Rostov-on-Don, told a reporter from *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* that he did not know how he had raised such a son. "Imagine, he simply does not want to work—anywhere, at any time. Oh yes, he'll do the odd job for a little of wine. But real labour to provide for himself, establish himself in life? No."

Anatoly Litvinov was more sophisticated in justifying his idleness. He lived on his mother's pension and his wife's earnings. "Someone has to eat and look after the house," he argued. "The Government isn't against a housekeeper is it? Where is it said that the housekeeper must be a woman? Isn't this an age of equality?"

Soviet papers of equal parasitic idleness usually the fault of the family's indulgence of the fantasies of the workshy, Nikolai's father, for example, said his influence to find his son a sought-after job in a factory when he finished his army service.

But when harvest time came and the workers were sent into the fields to pick potatoes—as most Soviet factory employees are Nikolai's job rather than dirty his hands. And his father agreed that he deserved a "cleaner job"—which he never found.

"Every human being has a second family—the family of work," a paper said recently. But nobody wants to give work to the workshy. Factories are too glad when poor and disruptive workers quietly disappear. Rather than report their absence, they allow their names to remain on the factory register.

Articles have portrayed the idle young men as sick people, filled with self-delusions, cunning parasites and spenglers protected from the penalties for their antisocial irresponsibility by indulgent wives or mothers. Vladimir Popov, for example, is known as the "fish farmer" to the local Voronezh police. A college dropout, his only passion is breeding tropical fish. He stays at home all day tending his aquarium.

Occasionally he goes to the fish in the local pet market, but when challenged to produce his licence, quickly packs up her aquarium and turns herself

immediate needs but their water supplies were running out.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas made fresh attacks yesterday and today on the Free Khmer border encampments from a base seven miles inside Kampuchea.

Mr Jacques Danois, senior information officer for the United Nations Children's Fund, denied today that food for the Kampuchean was rotting in warehouses in Thailand. This was alleged by Dr Claude Malhuret, of Doctors Without Frontiers, the French organization which will try to march into Kampuchea next month to take food and medicine directly to the people.

The police find the workshy an administrative nuisance. Most are armed with false medical certificates, forged documents giving them valid reasons to be unemployed and phony addresses.

In the Soviet Union there is, officially, no unemployment. But there are many people who are officially considered virtually unemployed.

Most of the workshy take to drink. They leave their families and responsibilities and become drifters. They hang around shops and warehouses and pick up a few roubles, unloading lorries and goods. The money is generally spent on cheap wine.

Such idlers are often picked up for petty crime. Siberia, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* revealed that a few roubles, unloading lorries and goods. The money is generally spent on cheap wine.

Often undernourished, they pick up diseases and die young. The problem ought to be studied more thoroughly, the cause analysed more scientifically, the paper said.

In a country theoretically ruled by representatives of workers, idleness carries such healthy ideological connotations. Lenin had much to say about those not working not deserving to eat.

The younger generation, however, seems more disposed than in the past to live "on the neck" of their parents, as the Russians say. And so the Communist Party, forever glorifying "heroic labour," is now girding itself for a renewed and prolonged struggle with this unwelcome social phenomenon.



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## OVERSEAS

## Ford company goes on trial for homicide after car crash deaths

From Michael Leapman  
Winamac, Indiana, Jan 15

Judge Harold Staffeldt has while, listening to a testimony, a puzzled look punctuated with an engaging grin. Yesterday he entered the airy, Victorian courtroom here and cast a sweeping glance over seats crowded with lawyers, reporters and expensively dressed executives from Detroit.

He announced proudly that he had managed to read nearly all the documents which the lawyers had pressed on him before the weekend and added, smiling: "I guess what I'm trying to say is that there is a possibility that the court has some knowledge of the case."

The judge's house-own approach makes it easy to forget that the case he is trying is making legal history. The Ford motor company is the first corporation to be charged with homicide because of alleged defects in its products.

This isolated country town, with 2,400 inhabitants and a police force of four, has accidentally and quite reluctantly become the scene for this unique occasion. The charge against Ford was brought by a grand jury in Elkhart, some 60 miles north, the home town of the three young women killed in a 1973 Ford Pinto.

They were in a 1973 Ford Pinto, a small car introduced a few years earlier. It caught fire when hit in the rear by another car. The State of Indiana seeks to prove that Ford knew that the positioning of the petrol tank made the car potentially lethal in such an accident and failed to warn owners.

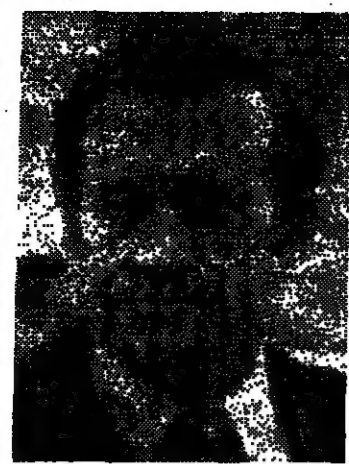
Ford succeeded in a move to have the trial location changed to this quiet town where they thought the jury would be unprejudiced. The grey, Gothic-revival courthouse, which dominates the low buildings of the compact town centre, has never before played host to so high-profile a team of lawyers as the motor company has engaged for the defence.

Yesterday they began to earn their fees by arguing a series of motions seeking, with some success, to limit the scope of the state could bring. Among items excluded were some of the company memorandums, including results of safety tests on cars, which have received much pretrial publicity.

Extracts were read in court yesterday.

The most celebrated is the one in which a cost-benefit analysis relating lives lost to a cash value, was made to help decide whether an additional safety feature should be added to cars. It was calculated that to omit the feature would cause 180 deaths from burning, 180 serious burns injuries and 2,100 burnt-out vehicles.

The document costed the deaths at \$200,000 (\$30,000 each), the injuries at \$67,000 and the vehicles at \$700. This came to \$49,500,000. As the



Mr James Neal: A Watergate prosecutor.

cost of fitting the device would come to \$137 million it was decided it would not be cost effective.

The defence argued successfully that the document did not apply specifically to Pintos and that the prosecution wanted to introduce it only to persuade the jury that Ford was a careless company which thought more about profits than human life.

The chief defence lawyer is Mr James Neal from Tennessee, who has a persuasive southern drawl and was a prosecutor in the Watergate cases. His assistants, one from Tennessee and one from New York, are equally sharp.

The prosecutors, by contrast, wear cosy rural tweeds and seem overmatched legally. Their leader is Mr. Michael Cosentino, the Elkhart County Prosecutor, who makes the mistake of blustering when Mr Neal and his colleagues try their more obvious grandstanding tactics.

There is most criminal cases the prosecutors seem to hold the big guns, here the roles have been reversed and the defence team, backed by Ford money, enjoy more authority.

The prosecution did win an important point yesterday when the judge ruled against Mr Neal's argument that no evidence should be presented to suggest that the Pinto ought to have been built to a standard higher than the federal minimum requirement to withstand an impact of 30 miles an hour without damaging its fuel tank.

He maintained that unless federal standards were upheld, no manufacturer would be safe from this type of prosecution and it would lead to the "total destruction of the automobile industry".

Mr Cosentino responded, and the judge agreed, that only the jury could decide what was an acceptable standard of safety. Today the lawyers were presenting their opening arguments for the jury and the first witnesses will be called. The trial is expected to last two months and then to be the subject of an appeal.

## Multinational companies accused

## of hogging plant breeding market

## Saving the green revolution

By Anil Agarwal

The green revolution is like riding a bicycle. Once on it, you have to keep going or you will topple off. To keep the green revolution going, crop scientists must continually introduce new plant varieties to counter pests and disease strains.

This is a task of great complexity since the crop scientist may have to cross thousands of varieties before he obtains, say, a tomato with a skin which does not crack, or wheat tolerant to drought.

But the natural store of seeds is diminishing fast, partly due to the green revolution which has promoted agriculture based on relatively few high-yield crops. Many of the thousands of "unimproved" strains are already extinct.

Seeds are becoming an increasingly valuable commodity and a document just released says that the multinational companies are increasingly dominating the plant breeding business.

The London-based International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) says in its report *Seeds of the Earth* that the growing multinational domination of the seed market represents a second and dangerous phase of the green revolution.

The biggest seller of seeds in the world today is Shell, the Anglo-Dutch petroleum and chemical giant. And just four companies (Dekalb, Pioneer, Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy) control two-thirds of the corn (maize) and hybrid sorghum seed market in the United States.

A familiar pattern of multinational exploitation of a Third World resource seems about to repeat itself.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that one company, United Brands (formerly United Fruit), possesses about two-thirds of the world's potential breeding stock of banana.

This trend is dangerous, because the speed with which plant varieties are becoming extinct and some of the new varieties introduced by the green revolution have turned out to be susceptible to what were previously considered minor pests.

It follows that anyone who controls these seed banks is in a position of great potential

power, and profit. The type of banana we eat in 1990 could well be decided by United Brands.

The face of the challenge from the multinationals, the international and national public efforts to collect and store seeds are inadequate, ICDA argues. The task of collecting plant varieties to safeguard the world's future food production remains underfunded.

There are only eight international crop research institutes and they tend to collect only the seeds of crops in which they specialise.

Like the multinationals, Western governments are building up gene banks with material from the Third World. "By 1970," says the ICDA report, "the US Department of Agriculture had collected material from 27 nations". Twenty-two of these were Third World nations, only 14 of which had any of their own native wheat material in storage.

The absurdity of the Third World's position, ICDA says, is that they will soon "discover" that virtually all of their rescued indigenous wheat varieties can only be obtained from the United States.

Getting access to the private gene banks is another problem highlighted by the study.

The report also points to another disturbing development. Many pesticide manufacturers have now entered the seeds business and ICDA fears that they will breed plants which will only thrive with doses of specific chemicals. In this way pesticide manufacturers could ensure that farmers buy not only seeds, but pesticides and fertilisers.

The report recommends that an emergency budget of at least \$100m (about £65m) a year should be provided to collect and store plant varieties and that the United Nations should declare plants as "resources of common heritage" with governments ensuring open access to all gene banks.

Amil Agarwal, Assistant Director, Earthcare, an international agency specialising in environmental and development.

Seed bank: The world's largest bank for vegetable seeds, capable of storing more than 12,000 varieties, is being set up in Warwickshire in a joint Government-Oxfam venture. The seeds, from all parts of the world, will form the stock for new strains of vegetables to feed the growing populations of the Third World.

## PARLIAMENT, January 15, 1980

## New police powers in Scottish Bill limited but essential

House of Lords

Despite the iniquitous assertions of some vociferous groups and individuals in Scotland about new powers for the police, including those of detention, the provisions in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill were limited in nature and in scope. They were essential for the police and their functions of investigating and preventing crime, the Earl of Mansfield, Minister of State for Scotland, said in moving the second reading of the Bill.

He said that the Bill, with 80 clauses and eight schedules, sought to make changes, some of them major, in criminal procedure and offences in Scotland, and in the treatment of offenders. It would be a major landmark in Scottish legislation on criminal law. The Bill was only a part, but by far the most important part, of the process of reform which had engaged governments of both parties over the past few years.

The law would give rise to most controversy in Scotland was that of the new police power of detention. The Government's proposals differed only in detail from those of the Labour Government. The first two clauses referring to police powers were derived from the recommendations of the Thomson Committee on Criminal Procedure in Scotland.

An attempt has been made to suggest that the new powers, the limited powers proposed are creating a police state. They do no such thing.

We place on the police the reasonable duty of investigating crimes and detecting the criminal with a view to prosecution, but as the law of Scotland stands they are not in a position to do so clearly as a suspect that they can already arrest him to pursue their investigation.

Any person they approach for information or as a witness can merely walk away. As the Thomson Committee recognised, life is not like this. Few crimes would be solved, and by bluff investigation is carried out.

That was unsatisfactory. The committee did not suggest that the police were acting illegally, taking powers of detention they did not have, but they did say that the police should have to rely on their present methods and that the position should be regularised.

The Bill is a consequence of the fact that the police require a suspect's name and address and ask a suspect for an explanation of the offence. He has to remain in the constable's presence long enough for him to verify it. If that was not done without unnecessary delay, for example by radio, the need no longer remain with the constable. Failure to comply with a constable's request for the name and address would be a criminal offence.

A police officer might detain a person for a period of up to six hours at a police station or elsewhere. If a constable had grounds to suspect that a person had committed or was committing an offence and that it was necessary to detain him for a short period, he could do so. The period of detention would be limited to four hours, which was ample. Why detain him for a second period?

It is the (he continued) a wholly bad precedent to detain a person for a second period. The Bill would create a new divergence between criminal procedures in Scotland, and England and Wales. If it were applied to England and Wales, it would create a new divergence between criminal procedures in Scotland, and England and Wales. If it were applied to England and Wales, it would create a new divergence between criminal procedures in Scotland, and England and Wales.

The Bill continued safeguards. The records had to be kept for a period of six months and then destroyed. The records had to be kept for a period of six months and then destroyed.

The Bill provided that any fingerprints should be destroyed if the suspect was either not charged with the offence, or was cleared of it. Nothing in the Bill put a suspect under obligation to give any information other than his name and address. The Bill gave no power to the police to search a person's pockets or to search his car.

A person either arrested or detained should be entitled to have a solicitor present. The Bill provided that any fingerprints should be destroyed if the suspect was either not charged with the offence, or was cleared of it. Nothing in the Bill put a suspect under obligation to give any information other than his name and address. The Bill gave no power to the police to search a person's pockets or to search his car.

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and locked in the cells. The Bill abolished imprisonment as a direct sentence for statutory offences of drunkenness and increased the financial penalties.

The problem of violence at or around sporting grounds concerned everyone and the Government accepted the view of a working group that alcohol abuse was a major contributory factor to football violence.

The Bill allowed the Secretary of State to designate sports grounds or events, and would make it an offence for anyone to attempt to enter or be within any designated area during a designated event, or to be in possession of alcohol or any container capable of being used as an offensive weapon, or to drink alcohol in a designated area.

Every citizen (he continued) should be entitled to expect from the state a system of justice which is fair. To be fair it must be just. It must protect the innocent and punish the guilty. Its punishments must also be humane.

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## Training to resist questioning justified

House of Commons

It was right and proper that training in resistance to interrogation should be given to service personnel, where appropriate, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Under Secretary of State for Defence, said during Commons questions.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether purpose-built intelligence centres existed for training members of troops armed forces and others to withstand coercive methods of interrogation. How many such centres were there and how many officers and other ranks had been involved in such training?

Mr Hayhoe (Barnford and Isleworth, C)—There are three service establishments at which facilities exist for training in resistance to interrogation. Those involved in it are volunteers and there are many who wish to take part in this training, but there are not places for them all.

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## Housing plans lay basis of profound social revolution—Mr Heseltine

House of Commons

No single piece of legislation had done more to change the face of the country than the Housing Bill, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said when moving the second reading of the Housing Bill.

Mr Heseltine (Henley, C) said that those who rented or wished to rent the Bill marked a shift of policy direction in marked contrast to recent years and laid the basis for a profound social revolution as in our history.

His Bill sought, in a variety of ways, to break out of the process of housing decline.

Principally, the Bill proposed to enact the promise of the Conservative manifesto that council and new town tenants should have the right to buy their own homes, to enhance the rights and status of the public sector tenants to whom the Bill offered the first time.

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depending on the purchaser's length of tenancy.

Many tenants exercising the right to buy their homes would be able to concentrate on the problem of housing decline.

In any case, local authorities had already incurred the borrowing which in effect meant that a grant of mortgage in these cases was a recycling of existing debt.

If Parliament enacted this legislation, it was right to expect all councils and landlords falling within its provision to carry out their duties responsibly and speedily. He would use the reserve power to take over a transaction only where he found he had to protect tenants from the illegal behaviour or delaying tactics of their landlords.



## ENTERTAINMENTS

Students seats at an extra 10p  
should be booked in advance

When telephoning use prefix 01 only  
include London Metropolitan Area.

## OPERA AND BALLET

**COVENT GARDEN** 01-240 1064  
(Carnegie) 01-240 6005  
**THE ROYAL OPERA**  
The Royal Opera  
Chantilly part-Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**THE ROYAL BALLET**  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**COLISEUM** 01-240 1064  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET**  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

**ADLER'S WELLS THEATRE** 01-240 1064  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

## CONCERTS

**ST. JOHN'S SMITH** 01-240 1064  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

## THEATRES

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**WINDMILL** 01-240 1064  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
Werther

## CINEMAS

**ABC 1 & 2, SHAPESBURY AVE** 01-240 1064  
Tonight 7.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30  
Amami solo and at 3.30  
7.30 La Traviata, Mon. 7.30  
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**ABC 1 & 2, SHAPESBURY AVE** 01-240 1064  
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Werther

## THE ARTS

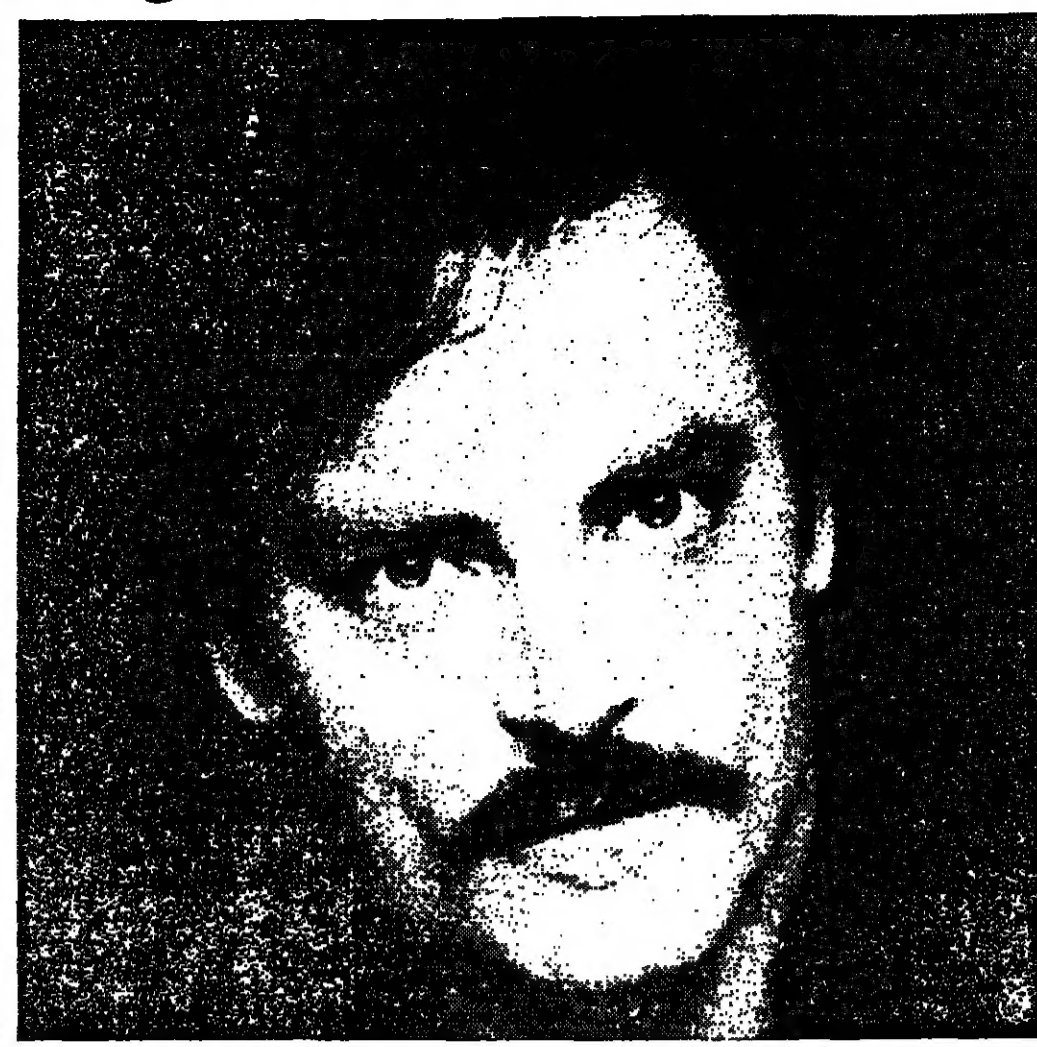
## Keach emerges in Britain at last

"When you are a serious, classical actor in America it is very difficult to gain acceptance from many people. The recognition factor is the most important thing in the States. Audiences want to identify actors in terms of personality, a look, a style. I resist type casting. I don't want to be nailed down as a particular kind of actor—so the going is tough."

Stacy Keach is indeed a curiosity. A quiet, diffident man who dresses with a lazy elegance, he has been much talked about in Britain—and, except for films, has not been seen here. Even in his native America he is often hard to find. He likes to play small theatre and board the boards in New York where New York critics fear to roam. At last we have the chance to see what he can do on stage—he has joined the National Theatre for its Orkney season and next Tuesday will be seen as Eric Smith, a gambling man out of New York's underbelly, in *Hughie*, a love play by the American master playwright. Strictly speaking it is not true to say he has not acted here before, when he was a student at the London Academy of Dramatic Art he did one performance. The play? It was *Hughie*.

"There was something about that year at LAMDA. We used to have a system of one-year Fulbright scholarships, now alas, lapsed, that allowed young Americans to further their study here. It gave me an approach to my work—a technique that has expanded my capabilities of working in different mediums."

Film, television, the stage—he has slipped effortlessly from one to another (not an easy thing for American actors) and his most recent film was made with Bill Bryden, director of the Orkney plays at the Cottesloe Theatre. The pattern of Keach's everyday life is reflected in his work. He is a student at the London Academy of Dramatic Art. After doing six months in *Deathtrap* in New York, he made the film in Georgia, had a few days at home in Malibu, California, and then to Mexico City for a TV career—and now London. I know it's often difficult for American actors to work here, but everything seems to have gone smoothly for me. A lot of actors jump around the country, but I don't go out of the theatre. I once spent five years when I didn't do any theatre whatsoever—and I tell you, that just about destroyed me. I vowed when I got back to the stage I would never do it again. My family is a theatre family, and I think for most people who are brought up in the theatre the other mediums never take on that special



Keach: a taste for the right part rather than the big theatre

importance—except for pragmatic, financial reasons. Acting in the theatre beyond Broadway, however, costs the actor money, and Keach has subsidized his quest for the right parts with television and income from films such as *Conduct Unbecoming*, John Huston's *For the Cause*, *Jesus of Nazareth* and William Peter Blatty's *The Ninth Configuration*. He loves acting in films but "it's a different rhythm, a different process", and in selecting parts he listens to something inside himself "and so far I've never regretted listening to that voice and making decisions myself".

To the anguish of agents Keach has acted in pin-stripe playhouses in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California, in plays by Pirandello, Chekhov, Shakespeare and Rostand. Clive Barker called him "a brilliant, funny, absurd, romantic". Cyrano de Bergerac in *Long Beach*, and when I saw him in a New Haven production of *Long Day's Journey into Night*

by the Long Wharf Theatre his impressive presence both held and charmed the audience. If Cyrano had come to New York with his long-nosed hero, it might well have won Keach a Tony—or another Obie (the off-Broadway award), for he already has that.

"It's been critical for me to work where plays are being done that I want to do. The actor's spirit is such that he likes to be capable of being all people in all mediums. Yet one also wants to leave a signature on a role. Olivier has always been a model for me in terms of the kind of roles he plays—he gets into the character, yet still there is always something of the man himself."

"For many years I had to wrestle with agents and PR people and producers about my image. Being a classic actor used to be the kiss of death, and I had to fight even my own father, who thought I should be in musical comedy."

Being an actor has not been easy. After initially wishing him

André Kertész  
Serpentine Gallery

What makes it evident that photography is an art (if not necessarily, as one might often infer these days, the art) is the primacy of personal vision over technique. Of course, this is to be seen only in the greatest photographers, as in the greatest painters, sculptors, filmmakers. But one need do no more than just step inside the Kertész exhibition at the Serpentine to know at once what the art of photography is all about.

Kertész has been taking pictures for nearly 70 years now. Since he was hardly more than a child when he began he was, like the even more prodigious Lurians, the possessor of an eye happily innocent of the period's arty photographic conventions. Instead, he just photographed what interested him—little everyday scenes in city and countryside—with a crispness and directness which might in other circumstances seem naive. But for him things fell into naturally expressive compositions, seemingly almost without effort: his eye was fixed and focused on the camera, and the technical details somehow took care of themselves.

This has remained so throughout his long career. Sometimes his later pictures of Paris and New York ought to be seen very self-consciously, especially when they follow up his passion for photographing something through or reflected in something else. But they do not: one never loses the sense of the directness that he has searched for, and for just that one bizarre angle of vision which will make his picture of the Place de l'Opéra or the Font de Arts showily different from any other's. Quite possibly he did precisely that, but the results have an easy, inevitable sense of rightness and child-like freshness of response: he has preserved an essential visual innocence



Kertész's Washington Square, c 1973

Guarnieri Quartet  
St John's

After Beethoven at South Bank on Sunday night, the Guarnieri Quartet turned to Haydn and Brahms on Monday when they gave the lunchtime recital in the BBC's weekly series at St John's (it can be heard again tonight on Radio 3).

The three string quartets of Haydn's Opus 71 are still less favoured than his other mature sets, and so I was momentarily disappointed to learn that the Guarnieri would replace the E flat Quartet from Opus 71 with the first from Opus 76. But that is a glorious piece as well, with a lucidly argued first movement that kept these players keenly on their mettle, once they had settled into the hall's distinctive acoustics. Their cellist, David Soyer, held his own in the turbulent development whose

climax was firmly marked with a slight broadening



















Bernard Levin

# Lighting a torch under the aggressor

The Soviet annexation of Afghanistan is not as yet either a triumph or a catastrophe, and it is up to the West to turn it into one or the other. It could still prove to be a giant leap for freedom.

Some say that the Soviet Union's leaders have made a disastrous miscalculation in invading Afghanistan; some say that they have, on the contrary, tilted the balance of world power decisively and perhaps permanently in their favour. The truth is much more curious than either theory: it is that the Soviet annexation of Afghanistan is not, as yet, either a triumph or a catastrophe, and it is up to the West to turn it into one or the other. It is one small step for aggression; it could be a giant leap for freedom.

First, let us clear away some of the undergrowth. The fact has already been said, particularly in this country, about the fighting qualities of Johnny Afghan, who, we are encouraged to believe, will be more than a match for the Russian foe. In no time the Russians will be wishing they had never crossed the frontier, and looking with increasing desperation for a way to get back across it, while the fierce tribesmen who gave Britain such trouble in the nineteenth century hurry them unmercifully.

Alas for such hopes; this is not the nineteenth century but the twentieth; indeed, it is damned nearly the twenty-first, and it is the forces of Lord Brezhnev who have invaded Afghanistan, not those of Lord Auckland. The Soviet answer to Soviet warfare on the part of the Afghans will be to exterminate a sufficient number of them to ensure that the rest will be either docile or ineffective. The British, faced with a village from which Afghan tribesmen had been raiding the outskirts of the Raj, would send a detachment to burn it down, taking a week to get there and giving sufficient audible warning of their approach to enable the inhabitants to disappear into the hills; the Russians today will signal in the bombers and kill every man, woman and child in the place within half an hour of the decision being taken.

That is the first lesson in realism

we must learn: Afghanistan has been invaded by an army owing allegiance to men who will stop at nothing at all in the way of mass murder or indeed anything else to gain their ends. The second lesson in realism is that the stories we are now hearing of dissension in the Kremlin would not matter even if they were true. Afghanistan now has tens of thousands of Soviet troops on her territory and is in effect already another Soviet colony; all the Soviet leaders must now be hawks, whatever they may have been to begin with, because the alternative to continued occupation of Afghanistan is a Retreat from Kabul as disastrous, in terms of diplomacy if not of loss of lives, as the one in 1842. The third lesson in realism is that, for all the talk of Sino-American military alliance or even action, the Russians are not going to be driven out by armed force: the Third World War would certainly be interesting and even exciting, but on the whole I don't think our side ought to start it, and on the whole I don't think our side will.

The fourth lesson is the subtlest one, and the most important. If we cannot end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, we can at least use it. At present, the action being taken, contemplated is largely reactive. Even so, I may say, it is a very great deal better than such action on the

part of the West usually is; we have only to compare the present course of action with the shameful feebleness of the western response to the 1958 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia to see the different spirit that informs it. But we are still, so far, only responding to the Soviet aggression; what we now have to do is to capitalize on it.

It will not be easy. Nothing could better illustrate the short-sighted selfishness of so many of the nations of the western alliance than the fact that the most President Carter has managed to extract from them is a shaky promise not to sell the Soviet Union more wheat than usual to help make up the shortage caused by the reduction in what the United States is willing to supply. No doubt the French will break even this agreement (the friend, ally, supporter, hunting-partner, sustainer, dining-companion and ultimately betrayer of the Emperor Bokassa will hardly shrink from helping the Russians if it will help his own farmers, particularly since any geologist will tell you that the soil of Afghanistan is wholly deficient in diamonds), just as the Japanese will break any similar agreement on technology; but even if an absolutely united and unbroken front could be organized, it would still be inadequate, and more to the point, seen to be inadequate—unless it actually involved a reduction, and

more than a token reduction, too, in the amount America's allies are willing to supply to America, and their own, enemies. And as externally in the United States; the Republican contenders for their party's Presidential nomination included only one, and he a forlorn hope, who dissented from the otherwise unanimous chorus of blame for the President's action; a handful of convention delegates from the mid-West farming states, it seems, are more important than the safety of the Alliance. And so indeed they are, to men who set their own ambitions higher than freedom's good.

Few countries have so far made it unequivocally clear that they realize that this is not an American problem in which America deserves support, but an international problem which affects the safety of all and the freedom of those who still possess it. Even fewer have added immediate action to forthright words. One of these, happily, is Britain, no longer governed by men who would fear to be too severe on the Soviet Union lest they should risk alienating those on their own back benches (and National Executive, for that matter) for whom few Soviet actions are wrong and none seem to be too severe.

And yet, as I say, for all President Carter's splendid leadership there is more to be done. To cut off grain

that Soviet agriculture is too inefficient to grow for itself, and technology that Soviet industry is too backward to make for itself, is a good start, and the further measures contemplated, together with the vigorous diplomatic offensive the President has launched (I wish Senator Moynihan were still America's Ambassador to the UN, but at least we can be thankful that Mr Ivor Richard is no longer Britain's), will, if (and only if) they are not allowed to slacken and become mere gestures, ultimately have a real effect. But they are not enough.

They are not enough because the Soviet people, though they will be affected, will not be affected in a manner which will inescapably and very widely tie the adverse effects they are experiencing to the actions of their rulers. A reduction in grain supplies will ultimately make many Russians hungry; but the effect will not work through for a long time, and anyway Russians are frequently hungry already. The limitations on technology will be even more slowly felt, and even more indirectly, and the condemnation of the Soviet invasion by other countries will hardly be felt at all, largely because it will hardly be known about; nothing will appear in the Soviet press, or on their radio or television, which is not been filtered and sterilized for Soviet consumption, and the numbers listening clandestinely to the BBC or Radio Free Europe are obviously small. (As for any delay in the ratification of SALT II, I doubt the Russians have any idea of what it is, and that goes for most Britons, too.) But there is one, and only one, action we can take that fits my definition of a positive response which will use Soviet aggression to the advantage of the West. I refer, of course, to the cancellation, or removal from Moscow, of the 1980 Olympics. Tomorrow, I shall discuss how that might be brought about, and why it is important to be continued.

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Miss Monroe in 1973, the year she was awarded the CMG.

## Miss Monroe and the lessons of history

It comes as rather a shock to discover that Elizabeth Monroe is 75 today: she has been, until recently, such an active writer, talker and traveller about the Middle East, that it is hard to realize she has been that for well over 40 years.

Since she made her name with a Chatham House pamphlet on Abyssinia at the time of Mussolini's invasion, and then her book *The Mediterranean in World Politics* published in 1938, I asked whether she saw parallels between those years and the situation today, in the light of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

She compares the invasion rather to Hitler's reoccupation of the Rhineland than to Mussolini's rape of Abyssinia. "Hitler and his generals were divided, just as we think the Kremlin is divided today. In each case, the offender weighed up what he would be risking and what he would be gaining, and wouldn't get anything more than a rap on the knuckles."

Another similarity she points out is that 1936 was the year of the Olympic Games in Berlin. "Then, too, there were suggestions that the venue should be moved. But nobody did anything about it. I think this time they should all be moved to Canada. Of course, the Russians would boycott them, but too bad. You give a free advertisement to the country that transgresses if you let them stage the Olympic Games as a triumph."

"One other thing: on these occasions the objective is always to secure a result in a mass and civil war. An independent Ulster would take security measures which would be seen by Catholics as discriminatory and punitive. Unity of the IRA would fire at Protestant troops, who would respond. There would be at least several hundred dead in a very short time and a huge exodus of Catholic refugees would pour into the Republic."

What that view was put to Dr Cahill, he replied that he did not accept Mr O'Brien's implied argument that the only options were instant and complete British withdrawal or instant unification of Ireland. When Britain withdrew from its colonies, he said, the process had been completed in a way which sought to ensure that peace could be kept following the withdrawal.

He believed that Britain's present policy on Northern Ireland was one of endless drift. There must be some way of fresh initiative towards a solution, and it was legitimate for Americans and their political representatives to seek a role in influencing the British Government to take a more flexible approach, which would include allowing supporters of the IRA to take part in the negotiations.

Such views provoke anger in British officials who believe they are doing as much as they can to solve a dangerous and difficult problem. They are convinced, as Mr O'Brien is, that the IRA takes heart from statements of that kind, which therefore serve to prolong Ulster's agony.

Yet Dr Cahill does influence Mr Carey, and Mr Carey will be an important power broker in the Democratic presidential contest, and American goodwill is important for Britain in many ways. That is why the Government cannot dismiss Dr Cahill's views as irresponsible ramblings, emptied though they may be to do so.

Michael Leapman

Michael Leapman on the power and influence of the Irish-American lobby

## How the presidential race could prolong Ulster's agony

Northern Ireland will not be an issue in this year's American presidential election in the sense that the candidates will debate how the United States should approach the subject. Yet because of the way the American electoral system works, the fact that this is an election year will influence the Administration's responses to events in Britain's troubled province.

Last month, when Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington went to see President Carter in Washington, they renewed in forceful terms their request that the United States should allow the Royal Ulster Constabulary to buy modern American handguns.

President Carter had suspended sales of the weapons in August, after pressure from members of Congress representing constituencies with a significant Irish-American population.

Mrs Thatcher, according to her spokesman, said that this was an unfair gesture against a properly constituted and non-sectarian police force. She said she had all the available alternative weapons brought to her desk in Downing Street and after inspection she had no doubt that the American ones were what the force needed.

Mr Carter said he would look into the matter. It is, however, unrealistic to suppose that there is much chance in an election year that he will reverse the decision.

It is not simply a question of his wanting to gain the votes of Irish-Americans in November, though that is part of it. More important at this stage is the President's need for support from local Demo-

cratic Party organizations for his battle for the nomination against Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Jerry Brown—both, by coincidence, of Irish descent.

The Democratic organizations in many large states and cities, notably New York and Chicago, have traditionally been dominated by Irish-Americans. Mrs Jane Byrne, the Mayor of Chicago, has already plumped for Mr Kennedy, though Mr Carter still has hopes of gaining the support of a dissident group in the party machine led by Mr Richard Daley, the son of the late mayor.

New York, of tremendous importance to any presidential aspirant, is still up for the grabbing. Mr Hugh Carey, the Irish-American Governor, has held back from endorsing either Mr Carter or Mr Kennedy, partly because by playing hard to get he hopes to attract more federal assistance for his state and especially for hard-pressed New York City.

Irish policy, though, will also play a factor in Mr Carey's verdict. In evaluating the candidates' commitments on the question, the Governor will rely on his adviser on Irish affairs, Dr Kevin Cahill, a New York physician who is president-general of the American-Irish His-



Governor Hugh Carey: Irish policy will be a factor.

torical Society and a frequent visitor to Dublin.

It was Dr Cahill who thought up the abortive peace conference on Ireland which was to have been held under Mr Carey's auspices in the summer. He claims that Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Northern Ireland Minister, had tentatively agreed to attend but Mr Atkins denied this and the conference did not take place.

In the current issue of *Foreign Policy* magazine, published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Dr Cahill has written an article advocating a more positive role for the United States in trying to arrive at a solution in Northern Ireland.

"Instead of utilizing Irish-

American interest and concern as a tool for peace," he writes, "successive British governments still appear to view the Irish-American according to the nineteenth century stereotype and still react to any suggestions from this side of the Atlantic as the utterances of an ill-informed, hostile monolith that should be silenced."

The article suggested that President Carter should call for an end to the mistreatment of prisoners in Northern Ireland, for a swift British withdrawal and a re-establishment of political institutions with effective guarantees of minority rights. This, he added, could be backed by economic assistance to the province, especially to cross-border projects and to enterprises

which provided a fair number of jobs to the Catholic minority. Just before Christmas Dr Cahill extended his views at a breakfast meeting with journalists at the Carnegie Endowment's offices in New York. He was asked whether the supply by some Irish-American groups of arms and money to the IRA did not disqualify them for talking about a political solution.

"American leaders have repeatedly called for a halt in the supply of dollars to the IRA," he said. "Responsible British politicians should be able to distinguish between the irresponsible groups and those who are responsible and who have deplored violence."

A few weeks earlier Dr Connor Cruise O'Brien, the former Irish minister who is now editor-in-chief of the *Observer*, had addressed a similar breakfast at the same place and had pronounced a diametrically opposing view. In the same issue of *Foreign Policy* magazine he has written an article which argues that Americans can make no useful political contribution to resolving Northern Ireland's difficulties.

Those no doubt well-meaning people in the United States who are exerting pressure on Britain to move Northern Ireland into a united Ireland are usually so out of a desire to end the violence, he wrote.

But if they looked at the situation at all closely, they would realize that only possible long-term consequence of the pressure they exert is the much greater violence that most Irish people in the North and South see as the inevitable consequence of a British withdrawal.

## LANCE HAWKER'S DIPLOMATIC DIARY

### All aboard the flying foreign office

One of the nice things about travelling around the world with the Foreign Secretary, as is the privilege of diplomatic writers from time to time, is going in the VIP plane. Some countries, like America or France, have a presidential aircraft reserved for the use of the head of state. The head of the Playboy empire has his own jet, known as the Big Bunny. In Britain, more modestly, a VC10 from the RAF's fleet is pressed into service for special ministerial visits. Lord Carrington's plane, named *Lance Hawker* after a famous flying ace of 1915, was lately in use to ferry cargo to Rhodesia. Today it is flying us all from Feshawar and the Khyber Pass on to Delhi, to see Mrs Gandhi.

The plane is not an ordinary plane. After the red carpets, the rushing in and out of conference rooms and receptions, the freezing cold on Ankara and the sudden heat of Oman, the plane is a home from home. At the front, a special cabin is set up for the Foreign Secretary and his wife discreetly contained from the middle section of the plane, where the civil servants and private secretaries sit in large seats with their dispatch boxes. And at the back, in a convivial muddle, sit the accompanying press, with typewriters and sheaves of important information which we intend to read

before getting to the next country.

Somewhat one never quite gets the reading done, there isn't time. We start with coffee at Heathrow, then the RAF steward comes around with orange juice, and then Lord Carrington comes down to say hello and tell funny stories. "I once asked the Indian Defence Minister what was the biggest audience he ever addressed and he told me 'three million'. How long did you speak for? 'Three and a half hours'. Did you have any notes? 'Certainly not'. The Foreign Secretary caps his reminiscence neatly. "The largest audience I ever addressed was the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool. But, of course, they were trying to kill me."

After this the steward reappears with hot croissants and an expert on Turkey comes down to tell us what's going on in the country. "How is the Turkish army?" someone inquires. "I'm not sure, actually. But rather big." Then the steward comes back with hot savouries and it's time for drinks. Then it's lunch time. The RAF produce a shrimp salad, chicken and two veg. The Foreign Secretary and the Turkish Minister, who is just about ready to concentrate on the Turkish economic situation when we start coming down at Ankara. For some reason the four and half hours have gone like a flash. It's freezing cold. Two

soldiers with machine guns rush out to each wingtip. Careless, Lord Carrington descends the steps, greets the welcoming delegation, embraces the wife of the British Ambassador, smiles at the cameras, and off we go. Lady Carrington is given a bunch of tulips. The press embus to the Foreign Ministry where the Director of Information has kindly arranged a tutorial for us on foreign policy, the economic plan and Turkish relations. All this comes in very handy when a local paper interviews me for my thoughts about Turkish foreign policy, the economic plan and Turkish relations shortly afterwards, at a reception at the hotel with more drinks and canapés. There is just time for a quick glass with the British delegation in their hotel suite before dashing out to dinner.

The Turkish economic crisis is brought home to everyone by the fact that during the day electricity is cut off and it is 12 flights walk up to the room. The Prime Minister's own office, to reinforce the point, seems to be unheated. Unfortunately the roads are too icy to enable the bus to climb up the hill to visit the Hitler museum. The official party continues its talks, followed by a big lunch at the British Embassy for their Turkish hosts. The press scramble around the tele machines to file reports of what happened, before dashing out to the airport again. The plane, white and calm, is waiting. Another round of smiles and

Suki's MP must be stinking rich - he's refused to declare his interests.



handshakes and another bouquet, and it's up, up and away. Everyone gets their notes out about Oman. A Middle Eastern expert comes down the plane to help us out. "How large is the Oman army?" someone asks. "I'm not sure, actually, but rather small." Lord Carrington, in good humour, comes along to answer questions which he despatches round the wicket

like a cricketer who has just got his eye in. Then it's time for lunch again—this time dinner?—and it hardly seems worth getting out a book, before we swoop down over the desert to land at Oman. Inside the VIP lounge, waiters in white turbans serve aromatic coffee, smoked salmon and caviar cocktail bits, and dates stuffed with almonds. The Foreign Secretary is encoined on a stool with the Omani Minister of State, who holds a coffee pot in his lap.

A cavalcade of cars whisks us into Muscat and to a spanking new hotel where up in the rooms miniature bottles of brandy and whisky await the weary traveller, plus an Arabic situation comedy on a Japanese television.

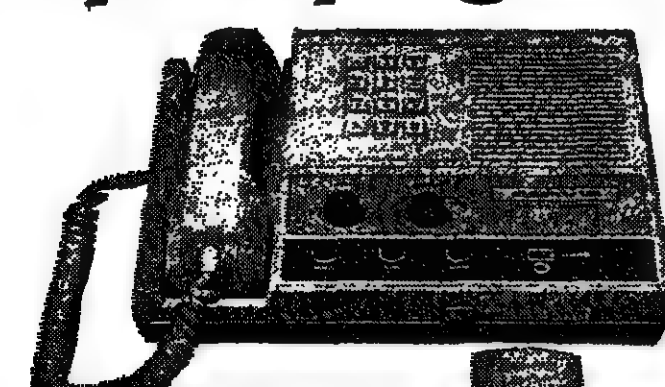
British force was wiped out, and only one man escaped in the end to tell the tale.

By daylight the town of Muscat looks like nothing so much as midtown Las Vegas, all white and new and high-rise full of showrooms, with the mountains ringing the skyline. Every one does tropical suits. Lord Carrington spends the first day in official talks with the Sultan, then we all fly off in a cargo plane to inspect the oil tankers playing the Straits of Hormuz which live up to their advance billing as lifeline to the Western world. "Navigationally, it's a super place," confides a British Naval officer. But the channel is full of sharks, also Russian spyships. The Foreign Secretary is rather keen on Oman, having been here before as a helicopter pilot to town and another big dinner. Next morning we rush off to the plane, strictly putting aside all thoughts of alcohol. Next stop Riyadh.

The ladies have covered their arms and put on long dresses. It's delightfully warm. The Saudis take Lord Carrington off to a working lunch. The press pile into a bus, Japanese again, and move into another gleaming new hotel. Outside bulldozers are clearing the ground for more buildings and a rumble of progress is in the air. It is tomorrow Thursday. They say it is springtime in Delhi.

David Spenser  
Diplomatic Correspondent

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## GAS IS NOT DEAR ENOUGH

The price which householders pay for gas is to go up significantly this year. Domestic tariffs will be raised by 17 per cent on April 1 and by a further 10 per cent six months later. Commercial customers, whose charges went up by 21 per cent last September, will pay an extra 10 per cent from April.

It was predictable that the announcement of the increases would cause an outcry from consumers. The householders have grasped two facts: first that his gas bills are going to go up substantially; second, that British Gas, the monopoly supplier, has been making enormous profits and will undoubtedly make an even bigger profit this year. The obvious conclusion—one of which he will not be disabused by some politicians of the left and those who draw the world in blacks and whites, with no shades of grey between—is that British Gas is profiteering at his expense.

That is an easy and comfortable interpretation of the facts. It is also wrong. Certainly the corporation's 1978-79 profit of £360.7m was large; it gave British Gas a return on assets of 20.7 per cent, (6.1 per cent if computed by the more realistic replacement cost method). This is a very high but by no means outrageous return. The results in 1979-80 and 1980-81 are likely to be even higher and the return on assets equal to or better than in the previous year.

But British Gas should not be pilloried for its efficiency, or for its commercial advantages. This country has indulged in muddled thinking about its nationalized industries for too long. The last Labour government, which, along with its predecessors, had been responsible for much of the muddle, appeared to be edging towards a sensible view of state industries in its April, 1978, White Paper. It put forward proposals to ensure, among other things, that the nationalized industries employed resources efficiently to the benefit of the whole community. The history of nationalization has not shown any methods other than the disciplines of profit and loss which motivate state industry managers and their workforces to perform efficiently.

The truth about gas is that it has been underpriced. The demand for conversion to gas and for gas appliances has been such that the industry can no longer cope with it effectively, a sure sign that we have had it too cheaply for too long. If the provision of domestic power is to remain a service to the public then there is no rational reason why one sector of the public (the gas consumers) should pay less for their energy than the other (consumer electricity). The apparent flaw in this argument is that electricity prices are also about to be raised substantially,

so that gas and electricity prices will continue to be out of line. The uncomfortable conclusion of market pricing is that gas prices should be raised by more than has been planned, but that is thought not to be politically supportable.

There is another justification for higher gas prices. Gas is a scarce resource. Our supplies of North Sea gas will run out before the North Sea wells run dry of oil. The higher prices will be an inducement to conservation; high profits will help finance the heavier capital investment which will be needed if the more marginal (and therefore more expensive to exploit) gas fields are to be brought on stream.

Even this heavy expenditure will not use up all of the British Gas profits. The corporation should certainly not be pushed into unnecessary or profligate investment just because the money is there. Part of the profit will be used to pay off loans and make a net contribution to the Exchequer, a welcome refreshment considering the losses elsewhere in the public sector. Dr David Owen, Labour's spokesman on energy, avails that the corporation's profit must not be used simply to pay for tax reductions for the better off. Will he then complain if the corporation's payments to the Exchequer contribute to modest tax reductions across the board?

## Police deaf to criticisms

From Mr David Ascoli  
Sir, As the most recent historian of the Metropolitan Police, may I comment on your leader of January 14?

There are good and historical reasons for police sensitivity to criticism. For 150 years, the service has been subjected to a constant barrage of direct attack and, more seriously, a campaign of innuendo.

Throughout that time there has always been, in some quarters, a suspicion, if not an expectation, of impropriety. Of course there have been black sheep, and there always will be. Politicians are, like every citizen, subject to the frailties of human nature.

The service has never been strong on public relations, and chief officers (with the notable exception of Sir Robert Mark) have long tended to talk first and think later. Indeed, the Royal Commission of 1960-62 had this pungent comment: "The problem of controlling the police can be restated as the problem of controlling chief constables".

But the police, the executive arm of the law, are not above the law. They do not decide issues of criminality, whether in the community at large or in their own ranks. That is the function of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is in turn responsible to the Attorney-General.

Whether it is right to delegate such responsibility to one man is a much wider issue. But the DPP makes his decisions on the evidence, which is the only basis of criminal procedure. Increasingly, the process is being infected by what can best be described as a trial by media. The Thorpe case and the present Operation Countryman are recent instances.

On May 26, 1977, you printed a leader under the heading "The anger of the police". It is salutary to compare what you said then, and what you suggest now.

The police service remains a highly vulnerable public institution. It sometimes breaks the law. But it does not make the law. And in the last analysis, it is fully accountable for its actions. It can hardly be blamed, however much it may seem to protest, if it is exonerated of charges which are not, in the event, supported by the evidence. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DAVID ASCOLI, Fairfairs, Chichester Lane, Shalford, Surrey.

## The Ulster conundrum

From Mr A. Edwin D. Fleming  
Sir, The case put forward by Tony and Gay Firth (The Times, January 11) for an independent Northern Ireland ignores totally the evidence of the 1979 Border Poll which showed 98 per cent of those who voted chose to remain in the United Kingdom.

The recent opinion poll taken on a good statistical sample by the Dublin-based Economic and Social Research Institute (Irish Times, October 16, 1979) showed that 50 per cent of Roman Catholics in the province wish to remain in the United Kingdom as against 38 per cent who desire a united Ireland. I submit that there is no case for saying that unionists are "specifically Protestant" as Hugh Munro argues (The Times, January 8), or the province is a "sectarian dependency" as the Firths claim.

In the six counties of Northern Ireland between 1911 and 1971 the Roman Catholic population increased from 430,167 to 477,921 while in the 26 counties of the Republic during the same period the Protestant Church of Ireland population fell from 249,535 to 97,739, and the Roman Catholic population rose from 2,812,309 to 2,795,662. It is characteristic of the Southern Irish, I suppose, that they habitually allege sectarianism against the North, but the reality shows that if the charge of sectarianism is to be laid against Ireland, it is the Republic that should be in the dock and not the North.

Yours faithfully,  
A. EDWIN D. FLEMING,  
55 Kilmore Avenue,  
Mossley Hill, Liverpool.

## Future of motor industry

From Professor R. H. Macmillan  
Sir, In response to Mr Salisbury's letter today (January 10), my views as Director, from 1964 to 1977, of the Motor Industry Research Association, may be relevant. During this period we undertook the thorough test and analysis of more than 50 types of imported vehicles with the principal object of learning about the strengths and weaknesses of their design and performance which were of particular interest to our members. Additionally we recorded those faults discovered on delivery and those failures which developed in the course of testing.

I can assure you that these lists of faults and failures for almost any model of volume produced vehicle were at least as long and serious as any of those that have been published for British models. Of course, "rogue" cars are occasionally turned out by any manufacturer—they all admit it—but the imported rogues are a small minority. Fleet operators in this country who purchase predominantly British vehicles, know where to find value for their money.

Speaking personally, I have driven and owned British vehicles for over 40 years, from the first Hillman Minx through Ford and Vauxhall to my present favourite, a series of Triumph cars. I have found them, by and large, reliable and satisfactory, and curiously enough the only major breakdown I have suffered was caused by the failure of an imported component fitted as original equipment. My firm produces that purchases of mass produced imported vehicles who believe that, for the same money, they are getting greater reliability or performance than by buying British are deluding themselves. Yours faithfully,  
R. H. MACMILLAN,  
Professor of Vehicle Design,  
Head of School of Automotive Studies,  
Cranfield Institute of Technology,  
Cranfield, Bedford.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Intervention or the free market

From Lord McCarthy

Sir, To judge from the "open memorandum" to our political leaders which you published today (January 9), a welcome degree of realism has permeated the thinking of monetarists. The authors appear to accept what many of us have always said: given the conditions that actually exist in Britain's labour and product markets the "restraining effect" of monetarism could be indefinitely delayed. Meanwhile, British manufacturing industry seems set to enter an irreversible decline.

The trouble is that, given the monopoly power of powerful unions and big employers, tight money is bound to mean both higher prices and increased unemployment. Indeed it could create a situation in which small employers, and non-unionists, bear the brunt of the competition. If this is now the declared position of thinking monetarists it is a welcome advance. The only difficulty is that in their memorandum your distinguished contributors are unable to suggest how we are to change this situation.

They rightly confess that the Government's Employment Bill cannot be expected to be much help. All that advance no proposals to break up the power of private monopolies. All that is proposed are two narrowly based measures focused on different parts of the public sector. The first is that some public utilities should be subjected to private sector competition, eg the Post Office, the National Coal Board and

electricity supply. But if the problem is union power this will only have an impact if any private sector that eventually emerges remains non-unionised and relatively poorly paid. I can see no reasons to suppose that this would be the case.

Secondly, it is suggested that charges should be raised for a range of personal, private and family services provided by central government and local authorities. Since provision is to be made for "selective cash subsidies" for the "poor" this might help to combat unemployment in the non-industrial civil service, but it is hard to see why it should have the slightest effect on the overpowering might of either the Transport and General Workers' Union or British Oxygen.

Yet we must not despair. Once the leaders of an irrelevant and counterproductive doctrine are forced into a position where they advance still more implausible and long-term measures to avoid the need to think again, we may be on the way to redemption. In time their doubts and uncertainties may even come to the notice of the Government.

Perhaps, in a year or so, it will be admitted that it would be better to base our economic policies on the actual realities of our own economic and industrial structure; just as our competitors have always done. One only hopes that by that time there will be something to restore. Yours,  
MCCARTHY,  
Nuffield College,  
Oxford.

### Access to public records

From Professor T. C. Barker and others

Sir, Historians and research workers, not only in this country but throughout the western world, will have learned with consternation and dismay, from Mr Sainty's letter in your issue of January 9, of the proposal to discontinue the use of the Public Record Office facilities in Chancery Lane. Searchers will be required instead to go to the new repository at Kew to work at records which, while continuing to be housed in central London, will be shunted to and fro by van between their present site and the new centre. Mr Mabbot's subsequent letter (January 12) also affords little reassurance to those who use the records and are concerned for their safety.

The financial savings, which are the object of this disruptive measure, must needs be offset by heavy and growing transport costs. On the other hand, the inconvenience and loss of working time to the students, scholars, lawyers and innumerable other enquirers affected by it will be grievous and incalculable. Moreover, the risks, which Professor Davis (January 12) rightly emphasises, of damage in transit to the records themselves, whether in handling or by traffic hazards, are real and wholly unacceptable. It has to be remembered that the central archive consists not only of an unrivalled series of medieval records, from Domesday Book and the twelfth century Pipe Rolls onwards, but includes also much more recent collections as the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century State Papers, as well as Probate records down to 1857 and the increasingly used nineteenth century Census returns. These, and some hundreds of other series of documents, are a constant demand; all but the latest of them (to which, in some cases, microfilm now provides a by no

means invariably satisfactory alternative) must necessarily be consulted in the original and often, because of the need for simultaneous comparison, in series or in parallel. Readers have long recognized right to see them without undue hindrance, and the facilities for their identification and study at Chancery Lane, built up over more than a century, are homogeneous and well ordered.

We see the present proposals as threatening the greatest possible disservice to the unity and efficiency of research in our inter-related disciplines, and find it inconceivable that they should be implemented. We earnestly beg the authorities concerned to give them the most radical reconsideration.

Yours faithfully,  
T. C. BARKER,  
Chairman, British National Committee of the International Committee of Historical Sciences;  
SYDNEY CHECKLAND,  
President, Economic History Society;  
C. R. ELLINGTON,  
General Editor, Victoria History of the Counties of England;  
JOHN HIGGS,  
Chairman, Standing Conference for Local History;  
YEUAN GWYNEDD JONES,  
Chairman, History and Law Committee of the Board of Celtic Studies;  
A. J. TAYLOR,  
Past President, Society of Antiquaries; Past President, Cambrian Archaeological Association;  
F. M. L. THOMPSON,  
Director, University of London Institute of Historical Research;  
Chairman, Anglo-American Historical Committee,  
Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, W.C.1.  
January 15.

### Books for children

From Mr Kenneth Pinnock

Sir, Because teachers do not show much interest in acquiring "greater critical penetration" in choosing children's books, they should continue to be denied adequate funds for purchasing schoolbooks. That seems to be the conclusion which Bryan Alderson arrives at, somewhat tortuously, as one would expect, in his article today (January 9).

If Mr Alderson really wanted to know why teachers don't buy many books and journals on children's literature, he might have found the answer in the front page article of this week's *Times Educational Supplement*, headlined "Library Service being whiped out by spending cuts". Why should teachers spend time and money learning how to choose books of a kind that is beyond their reach?

School libraries, indeed, seem to be suffering even more than textbooks from the cutbacks of recent years. It is by no means unknown for a local authority to decide to cut out all school library spending for a year, or to leave library service vacancies unfilled. And, with schools so desperately short of books that they have to force children to share textbooks and to

forbid them to take them home, there is a natural tendency to spend most or all of the available money on basic texts rather than background reading.

Mr Alderson commends the National Book League's report, *Books for Schools*, but fails to mention its main conclusion: that spending on schoolbooks needs to be doubled in order to provide adequately for schools' needs. No one imagines that in the state sector of education at least—this will actually happen, even though the cost would be about 1 per cent of all educational expenditure. But what is more disturbing is that there seems no evidence from local authorities that the £2.4 million which the Secretary of State is providing specifically to maintain the purchasing power of capitation allowances (from which schoolbooks are bought) will actually be used for this purpose. Starved of books though they now are, schools throughout the country may well find in 1980 that they can buy some 20 per cent fewer books than in 1979.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH PINNOCK,  
Chairman of the Thames Valley Educational Publishers' Council,  
50 Albemarle Street, W.1.

### Dying in police custody

From The Reverend Ralph Bell

Sir, I hope the Government will agree to Mr Michael Meacher's demand for a public inquiry into deaths of persons in police custody (repeated January 7). Many in the police are deeply concerned by the facts he has revealed and cannot understand the refusal of the Government to set up an inquiry or the opposition of the police to stating their case at an inquiry. If the accusations made against some policemen are true, the situation is a disgrace to British justice, and the police must have the opportunity to set their house in order. If the accusations are false, then surely the police want the opportunity to refute them.

Having been a magistrate for some years, I understand the difficulty of the Director of Public Prosecutions in instituting criminal proceedings against individuals (when there are no independent witnesses inside police stations) but I cannot understand the Home Secretary's reluctance to setting up a public inquiry. Yours sincerely,  
RALPH BELL,  
Osterburn Hall,  
Osterburn,  
Northumberland,  
January 8.

### Reflections

From Lord Kingsdale and Ringrose  
Sir, I note, with mild surprise, that you have today (January 10) published above my name a letter which I did not write, although I am chairman of the National Association for Service to the Realm. In the circumstances, perhaps you will allow me space to reply to myself. While I feel that the introduction of some form of National Service might well benefit this country, I fear that its effect on the current situation in Afghanistan would prove negligible. One hundred and forty years ago General Elphinstone's immediate reaction to the Afghan crisis was to drop his revolver, thus wounding himself in the buttocks; today's letter maintains that fine old tradition of clear thinking.

I hope that you will in future exercise your editorial prerogative on any other Lord Kingsdale who may write to you, and with ruthless correctness the style and syntax, we have, after all, only one living to earn as a writer, and we don't want people thinking that we write many sentences like those appearing today. I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
KINGSDALE,  
Orchard Villa,  
Upton Noble,  
Somerset,  
January 10.

### A third airport for London

From the Managing Director of the British Airports Authority

Sir, In his letter (January 3) Roy Watts drew attention to British Airways' special interest in the development of Heathrow to its full potential. In so doing he set out a number of points in support of building a fifth terminal there before moving to a second development phase at Stansted.

There is no party with a greater interest in the future of London's airport system than the British Airports Authority itself. It seems appropriate, therefore, that I should respond to some of the points he has made, as it must be clear to all concerned that the BAA and British Airways do not see eye to eye on the subject of a fifth terminal.

If Mr Watts is right in his belief that the first phase of Stansted's development (15 million passengers a year) will be used up by around 1990, then the time has already passed when a decision should have been made with regard to the acquisition of the Perry Oaks sewage works on which a fifth terminal would have to be built.

This is because of the exceptionally long lead time associated with a major project that would involve at least two lengthy planning inquiries (one for the terminal and one for the sewage works) and the relocation of the sewage works at some other site), quite apart from the physical works incurred in the repositioning of that facility elsewhere (before Perry Oaks could cease operating) and subsequent reclamation of the existing site.

From the evidence given at the Terminal 4 Public Inquiry in 1978, the development of the site for a fifth terminal could take up to 12 years from a decision to proceed.

The report of the advisory committee on airports policy drew attention to a number of other problems associated with a fifth terminal at Perry Oaks, and which had led the Government to the earlier abandonment of this particular option in the formulation of a solution to the problem of airport capacity in the London area. These include the practical problems of providing for adequate road and rail access on what is already one of London's most heavily used areas, and the costs involved in the provision of substantial new infrastructure for a relatively modest gain in passenger capacity, since Heathrow would be constrained by the inability of the runways to match the potential of five major terminals in the early 1990s.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MULKERN,  
2 Buckingham Gate, SW.1.

### A tower opposite the Tate

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and others

Sir, A monumental building, nearly twice as high as Big Ben and towering over Westminster from its Thameside location only a few hundred yards from Lambeth Palace and so colossal that it is known as "The Green Giant" being clad in green glass or by local campaigners as "The Incredible Hulk of the South Bank" is destined to become the new landmark of London.

Nothing quite like it has ever been built before. Not a skyscraper, but a skyline, it will stand 500 feet high, nearly as high as the Port Office Tower. The Public Enemy being held at Brixton Town Hall into the European Ferries Development of the Vauxhall Bridgefoot area, occupies the 1960 Gallery, in its final stages both but scant objections from Londoners, due largely to lack of publicity.

When one of the nation's great poets wrote from Westminster Bridge "Earth has not anything to show more fair" it was true in both senses, but unless the citizens of London are made aware of the Green Colossus on their doorstep (with seven more similar plans on their drawing board) and of their chance to object, it will not be true in either sense.

Alongside the historic "pearls of the nation" runs the famous beauty of the Thames, which has inspired artists from Canaletto to Turner, but the "Green Giant" is "conserved" as a scenic river, with architectural "balance" on both banks, in keeping with the historic heart of London. Londoners will suffer an irretrievable loss, forever.

No one who cares for this country and all it stands for can want to see the beauty of London destroyed by buildings out of all proportion to its character and style. Yours faithfully,  
DONALD CANTUAR, EDWARD CARPENTER, Dean of Westminster; HENRY MOORE, President, Turner Society; BRUCE OF DONINGTON; ALEXANDER OF TUNIS; R. P. WALL, Chairman, River Thames Society; RUSHEEN WYNNE-JONES, Chairman, Friends of Chelsea, Lambeth Palace.

### Setting a modest example

From Mr Richard Joyce

Sir, It does not seem very realistic of the Government to expect steelmen, or any other industry for that matter, to settle for a wage increase of 5 per cent, 10 per cent or even 20 per cent when they themselves set the example by encouraging an increase in the cost of domestic gas supplies of 29 per cent in less than one year.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD JOYCE,  
81 Sheerstock,  
Buckingham,  
Hampshire.

### Whim-wham

From Mrs Patrick Young

Sir, Whim-whams for goose's bridges were invariably on the menu when, as children in Australia, we asked our family cook, "Doris, what's for pudding?" I always understood that Doris's favourite and the expression came from Cheshire. Yours faithfully,  
JENNY YOUNG,  
8 Lansdowne Walk, W.11.

## REPUBLICANS LINE UP FOR NOMINATION

The events in Iran and Afghanistan have completely changed the look of the American presidential election campaign, affecting both the Democrats and the Republicans. President Carter, who a few months ago looked as though he would be hard put to it to win the Democratic nomination, now has a good chance not only of doing that, but of going on to win the election in November. Being the man in charge at a time of crisis has given him an enormous advantage, and the firmness and moderation with which he has handled the affair of the hostages have been widely approved. But there is still plenty of time for the public mood to change once again—perhaps as a result of some new development in Iran, perhaps because of a miscalculation by Mr Carter, or just because people become impatient for results. If this happens, it could give the Republicans their chance, especially if it comes too late to help Senator Kennedy, Governor Brown and the other Democratic candidates before the convention. The Republican candidate could then make the most of the doubts about Mr Carter's competence which have been submerged in recent months, but not forgotten.

This at least must be the hope of the Republicans as they begin the long haul to the conventions

with next Monday's caucus elections in Iowa. Iowa itself is not a particularly important state, and the small number of people who turn out to vote on occasions like this means that far-reaching conclusions can hardly be drawn from the results. But it does have a great deal of psychological significance, because of its place at the beginning of the primary season and because it was there that Mr Carter's campaign first took off in 1976. At this stage it appears that Mr Ronald Reagan was ill-advised to refuse to take part in the televised debate earlier this month with the other Republican candidates, since his support in the latest state poll has dropped. But he remains the clear favourite for the party's nomination, because of the strong attachment to him of many party activists and the countrywide organization he has set up.

The question in the coming months will be whether he can retain his lead or will see it whittled away, as happened to Senator Edmund Muskie in the Democratic primaries in 1972. At present the main challenge appears likely to come from Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, who first made his name at the Watergate hearings, or Mr George Bush, the Connecticut Yankee turned Texan, who has

held a variety of jobs, including American representative at the United Nations, head of mission in Peking and director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr John Connally, the forceful Texan, a Democrat turned Republican, is not for the moment showing the strength that might have been expected. Mr Reagan's own main handicap, which may not affect his chances of getting the Republican nomination but could tell against him in the presidential election, is his age, since he is already 68. But he hopes to counter that by selecting an effective vice-presidential candidate, such as General Alexander Haig, the former Nato commander.

Whoever the Republican candidate is, he will have to present a clear alternative to Democratic policies, and he will have to do a lot better than the candidates who appeared in the television debate in Iowa and almost all attracted Mr Carter's decision to impose a grain embargo on the Soviet Union. Since most Iowa farmers were upset by the decision, it is easy to see why they did this. But it showed little concern for the national interest, and for the fact that any Republican policy must be based on the toughness towards the Soviet Union, as well as more defence spending and an attack on inflation.

## THE OBLIGATION NOT TO TALK

The sensible approach taken by Lord Widgery towards the *New Statesman's* interview of a juror in the Thorpe trial does not resolve all the important issues raised by the case. The court decided that in the particular circumstances the *New Statesman's* action did not constitute a contempt of court, but made it clear that interviewing jurors could, in other situations, be capable of being contemptuous. He did not, however, specify further. It is right that the *New Statesman* did not have to suffer in the interests of clarifying an unsettled law. But Lord Widgery's judgment did not take the issue much further. There is still uncertainty in the law, and it should now be ended.

The confidentiality of what is said in the jury room is an important aspect of trust in the jury system. If a juror thought that everything he said might be

noted for future public consumption, he would not only be inhibited about expressing his views, but might also in certain cases be frightened to do so. Such apprehension would be particularly acute where the juror was adopting a minority opinion or espousing an approach unpopular with his colleagues. This would not only be true of trials given national publicity, but much harm could be caused, within a community, by publication of jury room discussions in cases of jury local interest. The damage would not be confined to distortion of the free flow of talk between jurors. It would make people more reluctant to serve on juries in the first place, and lead to more attempts to evade service. In the end, the reputation of the jury system as a whole would be damaged.

The law on jury-room disclosures has not been clear up to

now. It should be made certain, by statute. The long-awaited Bill giving effect to some of the more important recommendations of the Phillimore committee on contempt of court is to be presented to Parliament soon. It would be easy to add a clause to that Bill, making it an offence to disclose the content of discussions in the jury room in such a way as to reveal the identity either of the case or of the jurors.

It would, for the most part, place no additional obligations on jurors, since it has been the custom for court officials to solemnly warn them not to reveal what they have said in the jury room, and all but a few have heeded that warning. The fact that the so-called "oath of secrecy" has not in fact had the force of law in the past does not mean that it should not have that force in the future.

## Answering Vatican charges

From Sir Philip de Zulueta

Sir, Lord March's appeal for tolerance within the Church will have moved all of us who feel disturbed by the scandal of a divided Christendom and wish to work always in an ecumenical spirit. How attractive therefore it would be to respond, as he would no doubt wish, with an unequivocal assertion of the right of every Christian to his own beliefs within the Church.

But before we discuss the particular cases cited, we must surely examine the general rules. It seems to me impossible to argue that there is no point beyond which the intellectual adventures of theologians turn into heresies. So far as I am aware, the Church of England and the Church of Rome fully agree on this, even though they do not always see eye to eye on the tolerable limits of speculation and interpretation.

There is also an admitted difference between the practice of the two Churches regarding the freedom of ministers of religion to continue to publicize heretical views from within the Church.

So far as the current controversial cases are concerned, I am far from competent to judge the theological point. It is certainly unfortunate if the two theologians are condemned or holding doctrines fully accepted in other Christian churches. Nevertheless, I doubt if many armen would feel it right to put in their own personal judgment in a matter to that of the ecclesiastical authorities. Nor would I

suppose that decisions in these cases are taken lightly or without regard to the ecumenical repercussions.

At the same time, the authorities must surely also have regard to the scandal and confusion which is caused, at least in the Church of Rome, if heretical doctrines are propagated with what seems to be tacit official approval.

To the future too, it will probably often be hard to balance ecumenical aims against the need to defend what seem essential doctrines. The existence of this dilemma cannot be ignored, and indeed if we all recognize it, we are less likely to be disappointed in our hopes and work for Christian Unity.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP DE ZULUETA,  
11 Vicarage Gardens, W.8.

## Risks from nuclear waste

From Dr Brian Wade

Sir, May I reassure Mrs Shione Carden (Letters, December 28) concerning the risks from nuclear waste. Radioisotopes with longer half-lives emit radiation with less activity, until in the limit the half-life is infinite for the stable isotopes with no radiation whatever. For example, natural uranium, with a half-life of millions of years, is only weakly radioactive; the radioactivity of the chemical hazard is less than that of a chemical hazard (as with other heavy metals) without the radiation it emits causing you any harm.

Thus a long half-life is not necessarily a disadvantage as far as nuclear waste is concerned.

The high level waste which we plan to convert into a durable glass and bury 1,000 feet below ground in stable rock will be very weakly radioactive after a few hundred years. The radioactivity of the waste from our Magnox stations will by that time have fallen to the same level as in the original uranium ore dug out of the ground, a hazard which is of no great concern. Our current drilling programme is part of a complex research effort to demonstrate quantitatively that the hazard to man from such buried waste is quite negligible.

Meeting the electricity needs of a typical English county causes about two deaths each year if the generating plant is coal-fired. If nuclear electricity is substituted, the number of deaths is reduced by about a factor of ten, including not only the hazard from the buried nuclear waste but from all other stages of the fuel cycle as well. That would indicate the opposite conclusion to that suggested by Mrs Carden: it seems far wiser and less risky to use nuclear power wherever we can. Yours faithfully,  
DR BRIAN WADE,  
Nuclear Environment Branch,  
Environmental and Medical Sciences Division,  
Atomic Energy Research Establishment,  
Harwell,  
Oxfordshire.

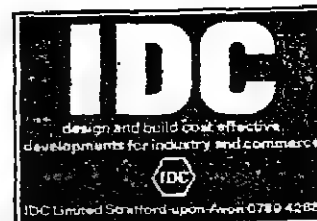






# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS



**Stock markets**  
FT Ind 441.7, down 4.1.  
FT Gilt 68.05, up 0.22.

**Sterling**  
\$2.2775, up 15 points.  
Index 72.0, up 0.6.

**Dollar**  
Index 84.9, up 0.5.

**Gold**  
\$687.5 an ounce, up \$31.

**3-month money**  
Inter-bank 16 1/4 to 16 1/2.  
Euro-3 14 1/4 to 14 1/2.

### IN BRIEF

## Inflation in Israel at record 111 per cent

Israel's inflation in 1979 reached a record 111.4 per cent, more than double the previous year's, it was revealed yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem.

But economic planners were heartened somewhat by the fact that the consumer price index for December rose by only 8.1 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent in November.

### Director resigns

Mr Graham Palmer, divisional chairman and main board director of the international commodity brokers Gill & Duffus resigned from the group after 25 years yesterday after what Mr Thomas Aitken, the American chairman, described as "difference of personalities". Mr Palmer did not have a contract, but Mr Aitken said severance pay was being discussed.

### \$420m loan signed

Despite recent uncertainty about Comecon debt, a \$420m loan to Yugoslavia was signed in London yesterday. It will be used to refinance, on improved terms, existing Yugoslav credits, and was signed by a consortium of Yugoslav banks with a syndicate of 38 international banks. The loan carries a margin of 3 per cent over the London Interbank offered rate with a final repayment after approximately 10 years.

### BP Shetland plan

BP Petroleum Development has launched a multi-million pound scheme to back industry in the Shetland Islands—site of the Gullfom Voe North Sea oil terminal operated by the company. The plan could involve purchasing equity in either new or existing industrial projects, with investments up to £3m for each project.

### Iran warns Japan

Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, Iran's oil minister, has told Mr Tsutomu Wada, the Japanese ambassador in Iran that Iran would be forced to suspend oil shipments to Japan if it joined in the United States' proposed sanctions against Iran, according to the Japanese news agency Kyodo.

### JCB's India deal

JCB Excavator Company of Rochester, Staffs, is to start production outside Britain for the first time. A deal has been signed with an Indian company to produce JCB earth movers at a factory near Delhi. A spokesman for JCB said the plan would help overcome import difficulties with India.

### Big Mexico oil strike

Mexico's state oil company Pemex announced discovery of a new field in the south-east of the country with a calculated 1,500 million barrels of reserves.

### Wall Street higher

Wall Street stocks closed higher in heavy trading. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.03 to 868.60. Turnover fell slightly to \$2.32 billion. Against the SDR the dollar was 132.69 and the pound 0.573043.

## Gold price breaks \$700 barrier in New York as buying surge continues

By Caroline Atkinson in London and Frank Vogl in Washington

The price of gold soared above \$700 per ounce for the first time yesterday, rising more than \$45 to close at \$712.50 in New York.

In London the price leapt by \$31 an ounce to close at \$687.50 and all over the world bullion dealers reported a return to recent hectic scenes as investors scrambled to buy.

It was the announcement that the United States government does not plan any official gold sales that took the New York price well above the \$700 level. Mr William Miller, secretary to the Treasury, said official sales "do not seem appropriate" at the moment.

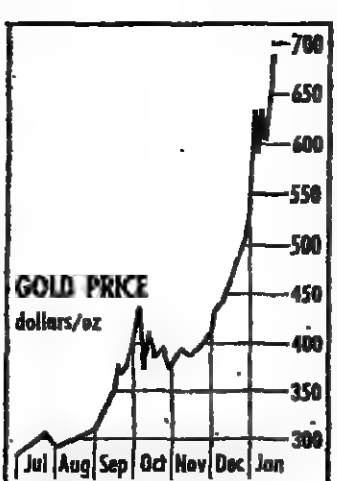
Mr Miller attributed the high gold price to unsettled international conditions and the desire by some people to place their money in a "more transportable" asset.

Some experts believed the Secretary was pointing to the evident desire of some investors to realize cash as quickly as possible from oil assets and shift it into the form of gold, to shift it into the form of gold, to shift it into the form of gold. There was clear evidence of an increase in Middle East demand and there has been virtually no profit taking by Middle East gold holders, just continual buying.

In London, the latest surge in price was also caused by the mounting international tension over Iran and Afghanistan. It is going on almost independently of movements in the world's currency markets, which have been relatively quiet over the past week.

Indeed the dollar yesterday strengthened markedly against other major currencies, except the pound, despite the enormous demand for gold. In the past the dollar price has tended to rise as the dollar's value falls.

The difference this time is that investors are frightened of political instability rather than primarily financial instability. No currency is a good hedge



How the London gold price has risen

against political tension in the way that gold is.

Ironically, some of yesterday's demand for dollars was thought to result from the leap in the gold price. Dealers were buying up dollars to finance their purchases of gold.

The late surge in demand for the dollar yesterday could also have been due to some short covering by market men who had sold dollars earlier. The American currency rose to DM1.7280 and to Swiss francs 1.593 at the close in London.

Sterling was strong yesterday morning, continuing Monday's upward trend. Overseas buyers of gilts are thought to have made substantial purchases recently.

At one point the pound topped \$2.25 and there were market rumours that it would rise above \$2.30. It could rise rapidly higher. But the dollar's late revival meant that sterling dropped by the close to \$2.2775, which was 15 points above Monday's close.

However, the pound held above \$2.25 against European currencies. Its trade weighted index rose by 0.5 yesterday to 72 per cent of its end-1971 value.

High interest rates in London and the influence of North Sea

oil seem to be behind the pound's recent strength. In average terms it is now back to its value of late August, before the abolition of exchange controls.

The Bank of England was thought to have been in the market yesterday to hold down the pound but the Government is opposed to intervention on any large scale.

This may be one reason why the pound has tended to rise more against the dollar than other major currencies whose governments are intervening in the foreign exchange markets.

Sterling's strength belies recent rumours of large switching of Middle East funds out of London. The Iranian government has said that it wants to take its money out of Britain but there have been conflicting market reports about whether this is actually happening. It certainly seems that other Opec countries have not been frightened away from the City because of the Iranian crisis.

The British Government has, along with those of other major western countries, steadfastly refused to participate in the American freeze of Iranian assets because of the damage this would do to banking business. Western governments are now considering whether to impose any financial sanctions on Iran in the absence of United Nations backing. There seems to be growing doubt about the wisdom of such action.

The world's financial markets are now dominated by international political developments and the gold price seems set to stay high for as long as the Iranian and Afghanistan crises remain unresolved.

It is now \$161 an ounce higher than at the end of 1979 and \$64 higher than before the surge. The price rose to \$300 an ounce during the whole of last year.

Silver reached record levels at the morning bullion fixing yesterday. "Spot" gained 163.60p per tray unit to 179.70p and three months went 172.60p ahead to 1954.70p.

## US undecided on how to impose sanctions

From Frank Vogl in Washington, Jan 15

The Carter Administration has not yet decided how to implement its declared plan to impose economic sanctions on Iran.

No regulations have been approved to prevent exporters concluding deals with private Iranian and no rulings have been made to halt private Iranian transactions with American banks.

A Treasury official suggested that detailed decisions on when to implement sanctions in the private commercial field on Iran may not be taken until the State Department officials return here from consultations in Europe. "The fact is that the effect of unilateral sanctions by us is not going to be very big, and there is no doubt about that we need the cooperation of the allies," Mr Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State and Mr Richard Cooper, the Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, are both in Europe now discussing cooperative actions with American's allies. We are just reaching here and we don't know what is being planned," another Treasury official said today.

Officials even admitted that they have no idea of the sort of volume of American-Iranian and financial transactions that could be involved should the Administration decide to force a halt in all business dealings with Iran. "The figure is bound to be well below a

\$1,000m," a Treasury official said.

Another official said contingency plans existed but it was a sensitive area and decisions were being considered at the senior level of the Administration.

It is all too easy here to gain an impression of confusion. Businessmen with contracts and deals with Iran are unable to obtain any clarification from the government on how the White House announcement of sanctions will affect them.

There will have to be some grace period to permit completion of some deals in the pipeline, and to allow for the unwinding of some transactions before sanction regulations are imposed," an official added.

The mounting use by President Carter of economic weapons in his diplomatic strategies is increasing business uncertainties. Often it appears that the White House has not fully considered all the technical ramifications of its economic policy announcements on the Iranian and Soviet fronts.

There are some indications by officials here that foreign governments are being more cautious for these reasons about rushing to announce actions of their own to support the United States' economic offensives.

The White House has given little indication that it has considered the domestic costs and problems for business, as well as the considerable bureaucratic difficulties,

## Lesney Products to make about one-third of workforce redundant at toy factories

By Peter Wainwright

Against a background of redundancy talks at the Meccano factory in Liverpool, Lesney Products, the largest United Kingdom toy group, is making redundant 1,275 employees out of a total workforce of 7,500. A number of part-time evening workers is also going, bringing redundancies to around 2,000.

Talks with the four unions involved continued all day yesterday, and Mr Paul Tapscott, chairman, said that great efforts were being made to explain the position. "We are all feeling very sick," he said. "The atmosphere at our factories is funeral."

Few of those to be made redundant are understood to have been on the payroll for many years; and the total redundancy cost is put at only £1.1m or so, with no more than about £1,500 for each worker.

Total bank borrowings are understood to be around £28m, but the chairman stresses that the group is still operating well within bank facilities.

However, these borrowings will have played their part in wiping out profits on annual sales of more than £100m.

Interest on them had soared from £366,000 to £1.62m in the six months to mid-July, and for the full year to January 31, it was feared could be up to £5m.

Lesney has been hit this year by the jump in VAT to 15 per cent; the ITV strike which hamstrung key advertising for Christmas; inflation; dearer loans; and the strength of sterling—a bad blow for a group exporting 85 per cent of output.

The Harrogate trade fair has only just opened, but attendances are down. To come in a fortnight, and, possibly the most important, the trade fair at Nuremberg a month later.

Christmas also seems to have been subdued with toy retailers fearful of holding big stocks when they are paying their banks heavily to carry them.

Lesney's main toy factory is at Hackney Marsh, but it has other sites at Rochford, in Essex, and Harold Hill, in Essex.

Redundancies and streamlining of production will cut manufacturing capacity by around one fifth. The staff level has already been run down in the key United States market and the unprofitable

Japanese sales subsidiary shut. On the Stock Exchange the shares slipped 2p to 28p—a new 1979-80 low. The high was 89p. It is thought unlikely that Lesney will pay a final dividend, and the intention, auditors permitting, is to write off the redundancy provisions against this year's figures.

Last June the chairman reported "ingredients for a much better profit performance", but October brought a slump in half-time results from £3.4m to £493,000 and a boardroom reorganization.

In 1976-77 Lesney saw pre-tax profits as high as £10.2m, but it is no stranger to adversity.

In 1970-71 it suffered pre-tax losses of £1.1m after the big United States group, Mattel, which was itself to fall on bad times, temporarily seized the world market for die-cast toys.

Lesney cannot, it seems, expect any quick improvement in trading. A price war is feared as retailers, with their stocks, and imports already account for one third of the toy market. Apart from the problems of Lesney and Meccano (part of Airfix), John Waddington last week announced big



Mr Paul Tapscott: "We are all feeling very sick."

losses in its "Videomaster" electronic games subsidiary. Sixty to 70 Opec workers have voted to continue their occupation at least until the end of February, when the statutory 90 days closure notice runs out.

## Dresdner Bank chief to lead AEG rescue

From Darrell Delamade in Berlin, Jan 15

Shareholders of the beleaguered AEG-Telefunken tonight gave a near-unanimous mandate to Dresdner Bank chief executive Herr Hans Friedrich to oversee the rescue plan for the electrical giant.

Following his election to the board, Herr Friedrich was expected to become chairman in the constitutive assembly of the new board scheduled to follow the shareholders' meeting.

The initial board meeting was also to consider the selection of a successor to AEG chief executive Herr Walter Cipe, who announced his resignation last month.

The election of Herr Friedrich and two others to the board capped a 13-hour extraordinary shareholders' meeting which approved financial restructuring measures announced last month, including an equity write-off of two-thirds and an injection of Dm 930 million in fresh capital.

The occasionally unruly members, representing 63.5 per cent of AEG capital, gave the management's plan an overwhelming approval of nearly 98 per cent.

Company News, page 20

## Carpets International chief steps down

By Philip Robinson

Mr Arthur Whitehead, £30,000-a-year chief executive of Carpets International, has resigned from Britain's biggest carpets group on medical advice.

The sudden departure of the 55-year-old former accountant, whose contract still had four years to run, follows his three years as the highest paid director at Carpets International.

Mr James Carpenter, the group's chairman, said: "We shall deeply miss his services. He gave tirelessly. But it has been a heady year, one of the most difficult I can remember, and the pressure has been tremendous."

"We have two main centres and Mr Whitehead tried to straddle between them. He used to cover around 60,000 miles a year, which is the way he wanted to do the job, but that caused a high degree of tension."

"We offered him an alternative job, but he declined."

Mr Whitehead's departure comes two weeks after the company's year end. Carpets International's profits record has

been patchy over the past decade, peaking £7.9m in 1973. This year the City reckons the company will be lucky to make £1.8m, against £4.5m last time, and only then with the help of its Australian operation.

At the halfway stage profits fell from £1.38m to £670,000 with an increased half-time dividend to 1.75p which was barely covered. This time the City believes the final pay-out may be cut or even passed and the balance sheet will show increased borrowings.

Mr Carpenter said: "I will make no comment on dividends at all. Our balance sheet will show that borrowings will be higher than the £3.4m overdrafts in 1978, but it is now under control."

The shares—which virtually halved overnight last September—rose 2p to 31p, capitalizing the group at just over £7m with a net asset backing of 160p a share.

Replacing Mr Whitehead will be two committees, one headed by Mr Carpenter and including the managing directors of the five main United Kingdom subsidiaries, and the other comprising Mr Carpenter, Mr John Crossley, vice-chairman, and Mr William Trow, financial director.

Total deposits at the end of March were only £63.4m, and balance sheet footings of £83m compared with the Hill Samuel group's total of £1,400m. The loss of earnings is also not expected to be "material".

Explaining the withdrawal, Hill Samuel said it would have had to inject too much capital to support its planned expansion. Mr Richard Lloyd, a deputy chairman of the merchant bank, added last night that the funds could be better used elsewhere in the group's overseas operations.

Hill Samuel's move comes only a few weeks after another merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson, decided on a major expansion in West Germany because of the need to serve the interests of its corporate customers better and the growing importance of the Deutschmark as a reserve currency.

The Frankfurt subsidiary figured heavily in Hill Samuel's lengthy dispute with the West German authorities over the Herstatt collapse. Hill Samuel sued the federal authorities through its Frankfurt operation, but subsequent court rulings overturned previous decisions that Hill Samuel should receive £2.6m damages because of the central bank's failure to halt a foreign exchange transaction even though it knew the Herstatt bank had collapsed.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Plessey warning on buying policies

By Kenneth Owen Technology Editor

Short-term ordering decisions by individual government departments and agencies may threaten the future export prospects of British electronics companies, Mr Frank Chorley, managing director of Plessey Electronic Systems, said yesterday.

Speaking in London, Mr Chorley said that the danger was that orders might be placed with foreign companies which would offer the cheapest immediate solution but which would damage the credibility of UK companies in export markets generally.

The wider implications of contract awards, including the effect on employment in United Kingdom companies over the next 10 years, should be considered before decisions were taken, he argued.

Mr Chorley's general argument was based on his view of three current public-sector orders for which Plessey Radar is bidding. One is for 10 radars, worth between £10m and £20m, for air traffic control in eastern and south-eastern England.

According to Mr Chorley, the favoured company to get this order is Westinghouse of the United States, which has put in a bid at a "very competitive price". The specification laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority was a very difficult one, he added.

Plessey and GEC-Marconi had collaborated to put in a joint bid for the air traffic control order. If this order went to a foreign company, it would damage the credibility of UK companies in export markets generally, despite the fact that this was a very specialized application.

A possible immediate advantage to the Civil Aviation Authority of perhaps £2m would be put at risk overseas orders worth £200m a year for Plessey and Marconi in the future.

Secondly, a substantial series of orders for Nato radars, for between 60 and 70 units, included a first order which would be for a station in the United Kingdom.

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## Reorganization means loss of 900 jobs in attempt to streamline production and improve quality control Mullard tunes in to the realities of colour television tube market

Mullard, a Philips subsidiary and the only producer of colour television picture tubes based in the United Kingdom, is streamlining its tube business, though at a cost of 900 jobs, over the next two years.

Mullard's decision affects production of tubes at its factories in Durham and Simonstone, Lancashire, and is in line with trends in the television and components industries identified recently by the National Economic Development Office's sector working parties.

The company's reorganization reflects the need for further automation and the maintenance of high quality control in production. And it is an essential step along the road towards meeting such market demands as new electronic products in the home incorporating television-like tubes.

NEDO's consumer electronics sector working party recently commissioned a study by the Boston Consulting Group of the production costs of colour television sets in the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea and West Germany.

The study showed that the Japanese industry gained a big cost advantage from its high level of investment in advanced



A section of the Mullard factory at Durham where phosphor dots are applied to colour tubes.

and highly automated production technology, superior set designs in terms of manufacturing efficiency, and insistence on high levels of quality in the components used.

This leads to greater reliability of finished products, but also to cost savings at plants because of fewer rejects and less need for fault-finding and correction. These benefits

have been made possible by the high throughput of sets which is typical of Japanese factories. Hence the strategy for the industry drawn up by the NEDO group:

(a) to rationalize United Kingdom television production into larger-scale plants (perhaps producing about 500,000 units a year instead of the present average of about 100,000);

(b) increasingly to involve existing Japanese technology;

(c) to introduce more advanced production and quality control procedures;

(d) to redesign existing products and introduce a new range of products;

(e) to do more research and development.

Against this background, Mullard has decided first of all that it intends to stay in the tube business, despite large losses in recent years, caused mainly by intense and increasing price competition and aggravated by the recent fall in the value of the yen and the dollar against the pound.

To make the business profitable, Mullard will have to make the best use of the production capacity at its plants and im-

prove the utilization of all its resources. Hence the decision to concentrate tube component manufacture at Simonstone, together with the glass activities, and tube processing and finishing at Durham. Simonstone will continue to produce the company's Colourex reprocessed tubes for replacement purposes.

Over a two-year period, the number of jobs at the two factories will fall from 2,100 to 1,400 at Simonstone and from 1,350 to 1,150 at Durham. Only about 100 of these jobs are expected to go during 1980.

Mullard says it intends to continue to invest "substantially" in the picture tube business. Production will be increased to 1,500,000 tubes a year, divided between 28-inch and 22-inch sizes. Between them, these two sizes represent more than 75 per cent of the United Kingdom market, and both are exported by Mullard in high volumes to Europe.

The increased productivity at the two plants will be achieved essentially by the continued introduction of automated methods of production—but not robots, according to a company spokesman.

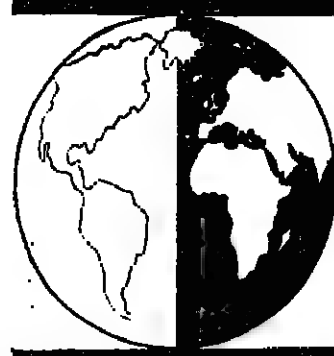
Kenneth Owen

### PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Barlow Higgs	10p to 10 1/2p	Broken Hill	15p to 66p
Bracken Mines	60c to 430c	Burton Grp	10p to 285p
Cook W.	112c to 625c	Decca	10p to 340p
Elsburg Gold	83c to 88c	De La Rue	10p to 600p
Grootevlei	125c to 88c	Eurotherm Int	12p to 291p

THE POUND		Bank	
Australia \$	2.11	Bank of England	11.15
Austria S	29.90	Bank of France	11.15
Belgium F	69.50	Bank of Germany	11.15
Canada \$	2.72	Bank of Italy	11.15
Denmark Kr	12.75	Bank of Japan	11.15
Finland Mk	8.74	Bank of Netherlands	11.15
France F	4.12	Bank of Norway	11.15
Germany Dm	101.50	Bank of Portugal	11.15
Greece Dr	11.60	Bank of Spain	11.15
Hongkong \$	196.00	Bank of Sweden	11.15
Italy L	565.00	Bank of Switzerland	11.15
Japan Yen	4.33	Bank of the Netherlands	11.15
Netherlands Gld	4.33	Bank of the United Kingdom	11.15





## China joins international fund to aid agriculture

China has joined the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the two-year-old United Nations agency which channels funds mainly from the OECD and Opec countries on highly concessional terms to poorer nations of the Third World. The Soviet Union is not a member.

The fund faces the problem of replenishing its resources, as at the present rate of lending most of the \$1,035m with which it started will be exhausted by the end of this year. Mr. Leopold Senghor, President of Senegal, addressing the annual meeting in Rome of its governing council which lasts till Friday, called for a substantial replenishment of the resources.

For the fund to be effective, he said, lending should increase at a rate above that of world inflation. He denounced "the immense waste involved in the huge and unreasonable expenditure on armaments" now under way.

During the last two years IFAD has lent about \$500m for 33 projects to benefit the rural poor in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It plans to provide another \$400m for 30 new projects this year.

**Working hours cut**

Talbot has announced cuts in working hours in France between January 21 and April 30, in the light of a probable sales drop in Western Europe. The working day will be reduced by 90 minutes from Monday to Thursday. Production will cease completely on six days during the period. The reduction affects all French factories excluding foundries and will concern 25,000 workers.

**Citroen orders study**

Automobiles Citroen, one of the car manufacturing arms of the PSA Peugeot-Citroen Group, says in Paris it has asked Nissan Motor Company of Japan to carry out a study on the adaptation of car engines made in France to comply with Japanese norms.

**Price growth slowed**

Consumer prices in the 24 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development rose by 0.7 per cent on average in November, down from a growth of 1 per cent in October.

**Fewer Danes jobless**

Denmark's seasonally adjusted unemployment declined slightly in November to 140,200 or 5.3 per cent of the labour force from 5.4 per cent in October and 7.1 per cent in November 1978.

**\$2,300m coffee exports**

Brazil exported 12 million bags of coffee in 1979 for earnings of \$2,300m (about £1,022m), the government coffee agency, IBC said in Rio de Janeiro. The figures confirmed readjusted IBC forecasts made after a June frost that reduced this year's coffee harvest by 7 per cent.

**US bank clearances**

In an effort to reduce "float" in its cheque clearing system, the United States Federal Reserve Board has announced that it is instructing Federal Reserve banks to develop procedures to sort out cheques of \$250,000 or more for special handling to speed up collections.

**Gold output down**

South Africa's gold output during 1979 totalled 22,613,066 ounces, down slightly from 22,649,496 ounces in 1978, according to figures released by the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg.

**Canada unemployment**

Canadian seasonally adjusted unemployment fell to 7.1 per cent in December from 7.3 per cent in November, compared with 6.1 per cent in December 1978.

**Cement joint venture**

RPC Technical Services, a subsidiary of Rugby Portland Cement, and Selstrut Engineering, have formed an Anglo-French joint venture to act as consultant to the Philippines cement industry until 1987. The third member of the group is Societe des Ciments Francais. Offices have been established in Manila.

**Import prices rise**

The West German import price index rose 1.3 per cent in November 1979 to 174.4, base 1970, a 20.3 per cent year-on-year rise, the Federal Statistics Office said.

**Oil sales to Italy**

Saudi Arabia may reconsider oil sales to Italy's state oil company, ENI, suspended last December, once investigations into communist payments by ENI are concluded, Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, said in Rome.

**Strong capital outflow**

A strong outflow on private capital account put Australia's balance of payments in deficit in December, according to preliminary estimates by the Statistics Bureau in Canberra.

Car makers pay less as speculators fight it out for precious metals

## The two tiers of platinum pricing

New York, Jan 15.—Platinum, a key part of car pollution-control devices, currently sells in the free market for more than twice what it cost a year ago. Yet carmakers have watched its price soar to \$812.40 an ounce without blinking an eye.

"We feel insulated from wild price fluctuations," explained Mr. Jack Dinan, a spokesman for General Motors. There is a reason for such imperviousness. Platinum has two prices and the rise and fall in speculative prices has no effect on the platinum used in pollution-reducing catalytic converters,

according to a spokesman for Engelhard Minerals and Chemicals, which makes converters for General Motors, Ford, Volvo of Sweden and other car makers.

Most industrial users of platinum, including the car companies, buy their metal directly from producers at prices far below the free market price. The world's two largest platinum producers, South Africa's Rustenburg Platinum Mines and Impala Platinum Mines, currently sell the metal for \$420 an ounce, barely half the free market price and only 12 per cent higher than a year ago.

Despite the big difference

between the two prices, the producers believe they have good reason for seemingly giving the stuff away. They fear that massive price boosts would cause industries to seek substitutes, something producers worry about "all the time," says Mr. Derek Dumeil, director of Johnson Matthey, the London-based marketing agent for Rustenburg.

So far, no effective substitutes have been found for the metal, which is also used as a catalyst in chemical industries as well as in electronics and pollution control.

Normally, platinum's two-

tier prices stand fairly close. But since 1978 the fever that propelled gold and silver prices to unprecedented heights has swept platinum sharply higher. At the beginning of this week, soaring gold and silver prices helped to drive platinum \$65.90 higher to \$812.40 an ounce for delivery this month on the New York mercantile exchange.

Of course, producers have gradually increased their price in the past year. But Mr. Dumeil says that only a "steady and sustainable" free market price increase would induce the South Africans to raise their prices substantially.

—AP-Dow Jones.

## BL starting drive for new dealers

By Edward Townsend

BL's controversial £2m "Buy British" campaign, initially aimed at new car buyers, has now been directed at dealers. The company is trying to tempt new dealers, including those selling imported cars, into the BL fold.

BL, which already has the largest car dealer network in the country, is clearly keen to replenish its ranks of dissatisfied dealers as well as to boost the confidence of others and expand into areas where it does not have sales outlets.

The first hint of a new dealership drive came last night from Mr. Tony Ball, managing director of BL European and Overseas Operations and the company's top salesman, during a speech at a Motor Agents' Association dinner in Manchester.

He said: "BL wants to back Britain's motor trade. But if you, the trade, want to buy British, come and talk to us and that invitation is equally extended to those at present holding an importer's franchise."

The company was already well served in many areas, he said; but there were other places, particularly in the rural communities, where they might not be fully represented.

Calling on the car trade to join BL to see if we can help each other," Mr. Ball added: "We are determined that the British motor industry will prosper again. The great fight back is now under way."

Last year, BL lost more than 90 out of a total of 2,000 dealers, many of them taking on franchises for European groups. Companies such as Volkswagen, Peugeot and, in particular, Renault, have been attempting—with some success—to increase their United Kingdom dealer chains.

In some cases, the big dealerships have tried to cushion the effects of any further deterioration of BL sales by converting a few of their showrooms to sell foreign cars. It is this dual franchising that BL now wants to stamp out.

BL will be telling dealers that it has no intention of cushioning the effects of any further deterioration of BL sales by converting a few of their showrooms to sell foreign cars. It is this dual franchising that BL now wants to stamp out.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Decca on the rack

Decca's shares remained in the cauldron yesterday, fluctuating wildly as the stock market convinced itself that a takeover bid for the company is imminent. The market is probably right. An offer, possibly from Rascal, an ambitious and successful land-based communication group which covers Decca's expertise in marine electronics, seems likely.

Decca of course is a sitting duck. One of the great names in British electronics and with a world wide reputation for innovation in radar and navigational aids, it was created by a business genius, Sir Edward Lewis. Sir Edward is still chairman but he is now in his seventies and Decca seems to have lost its dynamism—and, for the moment its profits. Last year there was a loss of nearly £400,000, and half year figures due later this month will show that the situation has deteriorated. Decca may have lost as much as £7m so far this year.

So the timing for a bid would appear perfect, particularly as Decca is about to clinch the sale of its music business (which Rascal would not want anyway) to PolyGram at a price of around £10m and by all accounts a great number of redundancies.

Rascal has been looking at Decca (and indeed Plessey) for several years. It has not been alone. EMI, when it was independent and prospering, talked to Sir Edward and so one suspects did GEC.

Sir Edward and various Swiss-based trusts control around 18 per cent of Decca's ordinary capital (the company still maintains a large non-voting capital), so his agreement to a bid is a key factor.

Rascal may have secured his agreement to open the bidding, but the price—or at least the opening offer—may disappoint speculative holders of Decca. Rascal, if it is to make a bid, would certainly pitch it at a level which reflects Decca's present problems rather than the speculative prices which rule in the market.

Thus, Decca's shares fell yesterday leaving the ordinary at 340p and the "A" at 304p. But so did Rascal's (down 9p at 197p). With Decca worth around £70m for openers and the possibility of counter-bidders coming forward, the market is already recognising that a lot of Rascal paper would be around.

### Hill Samuel

## Withdrawing from Germany

Is Hill Samuel making a virtue of necessity? Its explanation yesterday for the sale of an 80 per cent interest in its Frankfurt banking subsidiary to Credit Commercial de France was that the German banking market had become too competitive to justify the amount of capital it would have needed over the next few years and that the funds released—estimated to be around £4m—could be put to better use in faster growing foreign subsidiaries like Australia and Ireland.

But, after years of trying to expand to get the sort of financial muscle enjoyed by the big banking groups, and in the process having to run a more ambitious operation on the back of a merchant bank's limited resources and restricted access to fresh capital, it seems just as clear that the



Sir Robert Clark, chairman of Hill Samuel's merchant bank.

retrenchment in Germany is part of an underlying change of philosophy that has been going on inside the bank for the past couple of years.

Hill Samuel has already spelt out how the general balance sheet pressures on financial companies in times of rising inflation (and weakening sterling when that was relevant) have already forced it to turn increasingly to fee earning activities that are less capital hungry than commercial banking.

Its problems have been exacerbated by one of the worst earnings records of all the merchant banks, with profits after extra-

ordinary items virtually stagnating at around £7m over the past five years, not helped by the dismal showing of the insurance broking side which also makes heavy demands on capital.

This lack of profitability now seems to be working through to a more radical assessment of what business Hill Samuel can afford to be in over the next few years. The group is also widely thought to have one of the lowest levels of inner reserves of the merchants while two years ago there was a disguised rights issue when it brought in two shareholders (First City Bancorporation and BAIL) in return for £9.2m of new capital.

Meanwhile, Hill Samuel does not appear to be getting an especially good price. European banks of any sort do not often come on the market and the price is based on 80 per cent of net asset value with none of the goodwill element usually associated with bank purchases.

As it is the move comes only a few weeks after Kleinwort Benson decided that a D-mark base was crucial to the development of its international business, although commercial banking in Frankfurt is not quite the same as the trade-related finance Kleinwort has moved into.

### Gough Cooper

## Natural caution

After a year in which builders' profits have burgeoned on the back of soaring house prices, the market is now understandably taking a dim view of the sector.

The general picture does indeed look bleak with high interest rates, a mortgage famine, price flattening and the NEDO forecasting the poorest level of house starts since the war.

But within the industry there is still some optimism around, particularly among the urban "in-filling" development specialists like Gough Cooper, which yesterday reported a profit recovery to £1.5m last year from the previous £504,000. Pulling away from the intensely competitive contract building field, which lost the group £750,000 in 1977, provided the main impetus, while a 15 per cent increase in private completions and soaring house prices washed through into profits, although interest charges more than trebled to £975,000.

The point is that Gough at the higher end of the market and in the best geographical location—the south-east—can at least hope to maintain the level of activity while awaiting eventual relief in the form of lower interest rates and improving building society liquidity.

Given that profits could hold up fairly well this year Gough Cooper which advanced 2p to 78p could offer some attractions in a p/e ratio of under 8 and yield of just over 10 per cent. However the fact that the dividend has not been increased now that cover has reached an acceptable level for the first time in four years is an adequate enough pointer to the group's current caution.

Market views on the December trade figures were rather mixed yesterday. The December figures in themselves are, however, relatively unimportant compared with the overall figures for the final quarter of the year. Whatever allowances one tries to make, the situation is far from encouraging. Export volume (excluding more erratic items) was down by 1.1 per cent over the period, while the volume of finished manufactures rose by a full 6 per cent over the previous quarter.

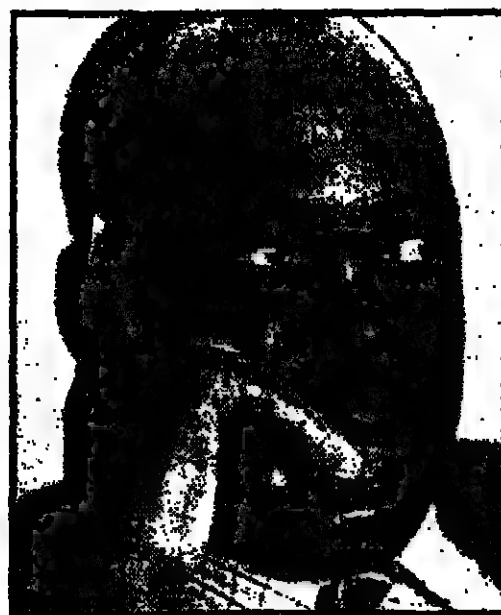
In short, 1979 has been a year that has added substantially to the firepower of those who want alternative policies to hold back the tide of de-industrialization, albeit that they are unlikely to make much progress against a government committed to arresting the trend through a policy of sound money and improving the supply side of the economy.

For the present year the Government has forecast only a marginal improvement over the estimated 1979 current account deficit of £2,400m, though most outside forecasters have forecast something rather better than this on the grounds that recession should start to hold back imports.

The interesting question, however, after another year in which capital inflows have more than outweighed trade outflows is how much longer overseas investors will continue to buoy up the exchange rate. They are certainly doing so in considerable strength at the moment, but the danger is and when the tide turns is that resident capital temporarily kept here in the hope of a gilt edged boom may make for the exit as well.

Ross Davies, recently in Southern Rhodesia, on a new breed of entrepreneur

## Blacks mean business in the new Zimbabwe



Mr Philip Chipudha: blacks' participating in the development of their country.



Mr Reuben Gondo: we have been spectators for a long time.

As black people we have not had access to finance... We hope the new government is going to make the availability of finance possible.

black community by selling goods at competitive prices to shopkeepers in the black townships.

But they did not have capital. "I can assure you," Mr Gondo said, "that raising capital has been one of the biggest problems for African businessmen in fact. I think bankers have always been very, very unsympathetic towards the aspirations of black businessmen."

The banks were and have always been and still are really exclusively white-controlled. "You go to the banker, he'll speak to you, fine. He listens to you and he asks you to provide balance sheets, final accounts—and in the end after going through all that hassle he tells you, 'Look, I'm sorry, I can't give you any money' because somehow the thing is not successful."

How then did he do it? With a white passport? Mr Gondo laughed. All they did, these white guys (his original part-

ners), was to go to see a banker friend of theirs who was the branch manager of a certain bank, and said, 'Look, we intend to go into business with our black partner and we don't have any cash. Can you give us facilities?' Just like that!"

"If I had done it myself I would have failed, but what we did was to put up this white front and it succeeded."

That certain bank granting the overdraft was Standard Bank, of whose board Mr Gondo now sits. It is part of the United Kingdom Standard Chartered Bank, which like the rest of the Rhodesian banks was caught in a wave of tokenism as the Lancaster House talks and therefore a black government, drew near.

For Mr Chipudha, paradoxically, it was UDI and the tightening of discrimination against blacks that gave him his chance. The declaration of UDI in

1964 and the imposition of sanctions the following year meant that his employer, Imperial Tobacco, no longer bought tobacco in Rhodesia for processing in the United Kingdom.

It was time for the welfare officer, Mr Chipudha, to see that his own future did not go up in smoke—but how?

While Southern Rhodesia was a British colony and until it federated with what is now Zambia and Malawi in 1963, Rhodesian blacks could not walk into a Salisbury hotel, he said.

That eased somewhat during the federation with the two "black" states but after the break-up of the federation and the declaration of UDI the old screws were tightened.

Under the Land Tenure Act blacks were forbidden to operate hotels in Salisbury, Mr Gondo said, and were made

to feel less welcome in the capital's "white" hotels. At the start of the 1970s a strange event occurred. A piece of land in the Kambuzuma black township south-west of Salisbury was offered by the government to black bidders only for development as a black hotel.

"We can only assume," Mr Chipudha said, "that the government here wanted to strengthen the LTA and the best way to do it was to allow at least a few (black) hotels in Salisbury so that, you know, blacks could then have no complaint. They could say, 'Right, at least we've got a place to go'."

The trouble is now that, since 1974 and the intensification of the war within two years of the hotel's opening, blacks no less than whites find it dangerous to move around.

Mr Chipudha was able to buy the land and build the first stage of his hotel—28 bedrooms, two bars and a restaurant—with a government loan. But so few black tourists now come to Salisbury from South Africa, Malawi or even other parts of Rhodesia that Mr Chipudha cannot finance expansion to his second stage, function rooms that would enable him to tap the local resident market.

"We are managing, that is all I can say," he told me. Mr Gondo, whose business is doing better because its bed-rock customers are in Salisbury itself, says "It's been an uphill battle all the time. It's only now today, that I know I'm going to be in business for the next 20, 30 years."

Peace would allow Mr Chipudha to expand into what he calls "the hotel business" neither black hotels nor white hotels. For Mr Gondo it means diversification "on the same lines as the whites."

Mr Gondo said: "It's not as if we have anybody. It's that as black people we have not had access to finance and we are hoping that the new government, which must be black, is going to work on this and make the availability of finance possible."

Mr Chipudha added: "We as blacks in the private sector would like to participate in the development of the country." As I was leaving, Mr Gondo added: "I like the police you made, Philip. Participation as for a long time."

### Derek Harris

## Video recorders: the battle for the UK market

The video tape recorder is providing the latest battleground in the consumer electronics market. Of the several competing and non-compatible systems involved, it appears that it is one of the Japanese systems that is on top.

This emerges from the most recent despatches from the trade. The VCR market, which accounts for about 70 per cent of the sector and are in a good position to judge.

The video recorder enables the television viewer to record (and play back later) a programme on one channel while watching the other and also allows the recording of a programme while people are out of the house.

At least 60 per cent of the VCR sector in Britain—one retailer says 70 per cent or more—is said to have been won by the VHS system employed by three Japanese makers, JVC, Hitachi and Matsushita. Betamax, the system used by another Japanese maker, Sony, possibly has a further 10 per cent of the market.

Philips' Austrian-made VCR system is estimated by some retailers to have between 25 and 30 per cent of the British market, which is almost certainly a smaller slice than the company has in most of the rest of Europe.

Market shares in western Europe in 1978 were put as follows: VHS, 38 per cent; Betamax, 9 per cent; and VCR, together with Grundig's similar but nevertheless incompatible SPZ system, 48 per cent. This was the result of a study made by the Price Commission during last year. Trade sources suggest

that since then VCR/SVR share has fallen away somewhat.

The West German market was confined to the VCR and SVR systems until 1978. Then the first Japanese models appeared in the spring of that year and price discounting came in.

In the United States at the time of the Price Commission study VHS had 58 per cent penetration and Betamax 34 per cent, but Philips and Grundig were not in that market.

The pattern in Britain has depended critically on which system has been taken up by the retailers. VHS was the choice of the Thorn group's rental companies, including Radio Rentals and DER and also of Granada TV Rental. Thorn's interests and Granada are the two dominant rental chains.

The main backers of the Philips VCR have been Rediffusion and Visionhire, part of Electronic Rentals Group in which Philips has a share stake.

## Estimates of growth

Whether the Japanese will win the war is a question which both the retailers and the rental trade would dearly like to answer. One factor is market growth. In little over a year VCR penetration in Britain is probably at least 160,000 units and possibly 180,000 or more.

Mr Bryan Quilter, Granada's rental managing director and chairman of the National Television Rental Association, has

forecast a doubling of this penetration this year and another doubling next year.

A VCR in a fifth of British homes, four million or so households, and possibly a quarter by 1985 has been forecast by Mr Peter Patten, Rediffusion's group marketing executive.

VCRs are being sold at between £500 and £600 and rental is £18 to £19 a month. As volume grows the prices are expected to come down. How quickly they do so will affect the briskness of subsequent business, particularly if recession this year squeezes disposable incomes.

There is the question whether production capacity in Japan and Europe could meet a big expansion of demand. Some hiccups in Japanese supply were noticed by the trade last year, although production capacity is apparently being increased by the Japanese makers.

There was a widespread shortage of blank tape cassettes made in Japan over the Christmas period and this is only now easing. Three-hour tapes, which sell at £10 to £12, were the worst affected because these are the most economic in terms of playing time.

There are stocks of Philips' present 1700 VCR model but the company is introducing an entirely new system, the 2000, in the spring which has a reversible tape that will give eight hours' playing time. It is expected to offer a bargain cost per hour of £2.50, but the technical demands of the system are high because of the need to "read" a quarter-inch wide tape instead of a half-inch one.

The 2000, a joint venture with Grundig, could obviously improve Philips' chances in the market place, but any maker running into problems, whether of production capacity or anything else, will necessarily see the market share arithmetic changing.

The free exchange of patents which was agreed last autumn by Philips and Sony will not mean Sony's dropping of Betamax. But it may turn out to be a potent factor in the next video battle.

## Competing disc systems

This will be over what is expected to be a much bigger market for the video disc and its hardware back-up of video disc players than in the United States have been selling at about £400. Mr Patten's forecast is that once this system gets under way in Britain it could be in 40 per cent of homes within five or six years.

The disc is likely to corner the market in pre-recorded entertainment because of its much lower cost compared with pre-recorded tapes. In the United States discs can cost about \$25 compared with up to \$100 for a similar offer on tape.

Philips plans a European launch of its video disc system, like Sony's based on optical laser technology, in the first half of next year. Disc pressing will be done at a converted factory in Blackburn, Lancashire.

But the clashing of non-compatible systems seen in VCRs could well be repeated in video discs. JVC in Japan is working on a capacitive system in which a shoe "reads" the disc grooves, while RCA in the United States relies on a stylus in contact with the disc.

With video cameras offering home films on the living room television set what they call "in the trade the 'multi-source in-home entertainment centre'" is clearly not far away. But which of all the clashing systems will win remains to be seen.

## Business Diary: Smoke with fire • Aston's deadline

Have Britain's two largest tobacco firms, Imperial and Gallaher, pushed the usually temperate and even-handed Patrick Jenkin beyond endurance over the question of cigarette advertising controls? We shall see. But there was no missing the air of seething within Secretary of State Jenkin's Department of Health and Social Security yesterday over what they see as another ploy aimed at spilling the anti-smoking lobby's guns.

The latest gaffe came with the publication of a report sponsored by Imps and Gallaher which seemed to back up manufacturers' case that advertising did not increase overall tobacco consumption in the country.

What galloped the DHSS is that

the compilers, Metra, a subsidiary of the Banque de Paris et Des Pays Bas, openly boasted that DHSS statisticians checked Metra's figures, suggested alternative methods of working, and in Metra's words "expressed and in Metra's words well satisfied with the depth and quality of the investigation."

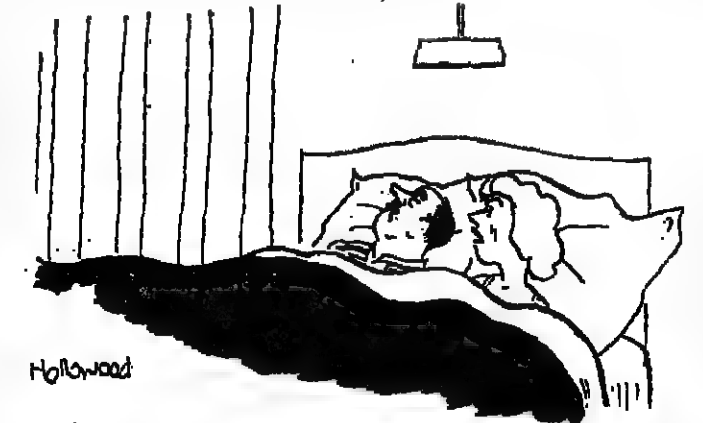
Jenkin and the DHSS hierarchy are furious at what they see as an attempt to gain official credence for a report bearing conclusions which pre-empt the department's position on advertising controls.

But what of the report itself? Metra industrial division deputy director Pat Sinnott, who headed the research team, did his best yesterday to explain his mounds of computer models.

He failed singularly, however, to explain to a group of untutored journalists how the conclusion that advertising volume over the past 20 years has failed to affect consumption could then be extended to include the notion that a total ban would have similar effects.

Seeking to make this quantum jump myself, I rang the DHSS and Action on Smoking and Health.

Yes, they told me, they both had the same objection. And then they went on to list others, such as that the report failed to take into account sponsorship, health warnings



Hollowood

"Remember when you gave Beth a necklace made of a hundred golden sovereigns and she was furious because she wanted a crystal wireless set?"

For the second time in its history, the "Tour de France" cycle race will begin in Germany this year.

In fact, the headquarters of Dresdner Bank AG, the second largest of the big three German banks, will be the starting point of the race and firing the starting pistol will be the bank's chief executive, Hans Friderichs.

Dr Friderichs, who rose to prominence as West German Economics Minister, is an enthusiastic racing bike fan. He has a proper racing cycle complete with drop handlebars which he frequently uses

BL chief Sir Michael Edwards has lost patience with Aston Martin's much delayed bid to acquire his MG plant at Abingdon. Reliable sources report that he has given Alan Curtis, Aston Martin's managing director, until Friday to produce a detailed offer or forget it.

In the meantime Sir Michael is going ahead with plans for Abingdon and yesterday appointed a new boss to look after the conversion of the plant into the new home for BL's "knocked down" department—kits for overseas assembly plants, the manufacture of specialist or custom-built cars, engine tuning and motor sports.

He is Alan Edis, 39, the present head of Cowley KD and former business and product planning director of Jaguar Rover Triumph.

His present Cowley premises must be cleared to make way for the Honda Bounty. It is understood that Sir Michael considers that the Aston Martin delay is now so serious that it is threatening next year's launch date of the Bounty.

If the deal falls through, however, it could prove embarrassing. The grapevine has it that Curtis will then publish figures showing just how profitable Abingdon was.

Two new names are to join the cabinet of men who make up the Government's Industrial Development Advisory Board.

Industry Secretary Sir Keith Joseph has appointed Gavin Laird, the leftward leaning moderate on the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and John Ray, chief executive of the Childre Group, to the board.

The IDAB is responsible for submitting observations on big investment schemes involving selective assistance.

The appointments follow the departure of Harry Urwin, the deputy general secretary of the Transport Workers Union who resigned after last year's Tory victory at the polls, and of two other members at the end of last year.

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office, has departed after seven years' service on the board, as has D. A. Chivers, senior investigation partner at Coopers & Lybrand.

The rising importance of gold has seeped into the consciousness of the wrestling world. Top of the bill at a forthcoming promotion at the Royal Albert Hall, and hailing from "the Dark continent", are an unlikely duo going by the names of African Kruger and African Rand.

David Hewson



Metra's Pat Sinnott.

# SGB GROUP

## ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

### PROFIT CLIMBS BY 35% TO £14.5 MILLION

Preliminary Announcement  
Year ended 29th September, 1979

	1979	1978
Group Turnover	£2,000	£2,000
Group Profit before Tax	119,343	93,805
Group Profit after Tax	14,514	10,582
Shareholders' Funds	11,310	9,926
	49,084	39,974

Return on Shareholders' Funds measured by Group profit before Tax

	1979	1978
Earnings per share measured by Group profits after Tax and minorities	29.6p	26.7p
	49.5p	43.8p

Profit: The profit before tax of the SGB Group for the year ended 29th September, 1979, was again a record at £14,514,000.

Our four major operating divisions in the U.K. the Scaffolding (Great Britain) Group, Youngman Group, Mechanical Plant Group, and HSS Hire Group, made substantial progress, each increasing profits by over 40 per cent. Overseas, the profit is slightly better than in the previous year, even after making additional provisions against certain of our overseas investments.

Dividend: At the annual general meeting to be held on 18th March, a final dividend of 5.1p per share will be recommended resulting in a total dividend of 8.25p for the year.

Script Issue: The directors will also propose a scrip issue of four shares for every five held.

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on Monday, 11th February, 1980.

SGB Group Limited,  
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TD.



## Disclosure of jury-room secrets not contempt of court

Attorney General v. Statesman and Nation Publishing Co. Ltd. Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Park.

In order to establish that publication after a trial of a juror's disclosure of jury room secrets was a contempt of court, it was necessary to show, in the light of the circumstances of the case, that such disclosure would tend to impair the finality of jury verdicts, or to affect adversely the attitude of future jurors and the quality of their deliberations.

The Divisional Court so held in refusing an application by the Attorney General for an order of contempt of court under Order 52, rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1976, in the case of Attorney General v. Statesman and Nation Publishing Co. Ltd., publishers of the *New Statesman*, with regard to an article in which a juror disclosed certain details from the jury room at the trial of Mr. Jeremy Thorpe and others for conspiracy to murder.

Mr. Simon Brown, Mr. Andrew Collins for the Attorney General; Mr. Geoffrey Robertson and Mr. Andrew Nicolson for the *New Statesman*.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, reading the judgment of the court, said that the article complained of in the *New Statesman* was "How the jury saw it". It contained a juror's account of significant parts of the jury's deliberations in the course of arriving at their verdict in the Thorpe trial at the Central Criminal Court, which was held between July and June 22, 1979. Both the trial itself, and the long communal proceedings which preceded it, were covered by the press in a sensational coverage in the daily press. The jury, having considered their verdict for 52 hours, acquitted all the accused.

Mr. Bruce Page, the editor of the *New Statesman*, commissioned two reputable and experienced journalists to write a series of articles, the third part of which was to deal with legal issues in the trial, and in particular with the jury room. The prosecution should have proceeded against the accused upon lesser charges, and the jury's verdicts, appearing in the event of a conviction, by newspapers to witnesses ought to be prohibited.

It came to the notice of the two journalists that the juror was willing, without reward, to divulge what had happened in the jury room. He did that because he felt that some aspects of the trial ought to be made public. They interviewed him. The editor was told, and he formed the opinion that the juror's comments provided important evidence which should be incorporated in the third article. That was done, and the article was published on July 27, 1979.

The article recorded the juror as saying, inter alia, that all the jury were agreed that the accused were guilty of a conspiracy to murder; and that it was not proved that there had been a conspiracy to murder; and that on a charge of inchoate conspiracy to murder, the jury did not accept the uncorroborated word of a prosecution witness who had agreed to accept money from a newspaper, the amount to be increased in the event of a conviction.

The Attorney General accepted that the editor's decision to publish the article was taken with the best intention; that he honestly believed that nothing but the public interest required its publication; and that the article never involved him in proceedings for contempt of court.

It was contended that the publication of the article was an interference with the administration of justice in the Thorpe case and that, where the article referred to the juror's comments, it was unacceptable that the juror should be published in a newspaper, the amount to be increased in the event of a conviction.

The Court of Appeal allowed, with costs, an appeal by employers, David Gold & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Ackner.

Where in a warehouse the heavier work (such as unloading and loading) was done by men and the lighter work (like sorting, packaging and labelling) by women and a redundancy situation arose regarding the lighter work, employers who gave redundancy notices to three women employees on the basis of "last in, first out" were held not to have unlawfully discriminated against them or to have unfairly dismissed them.

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sensible and responsible manner, the juror was contended that, despite that, disclosure would be a contempt of court by reason of its impact on the administration of justice.

It was argued that the article involved an interference with the due administration of justice as a continuing process in that the disclosure of what happened in the jury room tended to impair the finality of jury verdicts and thereby diminish public confidence in the general correctness and propriety of such verdicts; and (b) to affect adversely the attitude of future jurors and the quality of their deliberations.

The court was satisfied that nothing was permitted to be published which might tend to deter a person likely to be called for jury service from playing his full part as a juror in any trial.

The court was satisfied that, until a few years ago, it was accepted that what went on in the jury room had to be treated as secret. The solemn obligation of jurors to observe secrecy was well-maintained and breaches of that obligation were kept at an acceptable level. It had never been necessary to invoke the law of contempt in respect of such breaches, long that law had always been available for use in any case in which the administration of justice would have been imperilled by disclosure of the jury's deliberations.

On the other hand, it was also contended that there were strong arguments in support of the view that certain categories of disclosure fell outside the law of contempt, for example, where serious research was being carried out, but even then any disclosures would have to have been such as to ensure that the trial itself was not prejudiced by the disclosure of jury room secrets.

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ring after the conclusion of the trial. An example of that kind was given by the juror who was attacked or threatened after the trial pursuant to a desire for vengeance from a disaffected member of the convicted person's family.

On the question whether, after a trial was concluded, it was contempt of court to interview a juror and thereafter to publish in a newspaper the secrets of the jury room as revealed by the juror, it was helpful to have some regard to observations made by judges in the past, and his Lordship referred to *R v. Armitage* [1922] 2 KB 95 and *Edwards v. Debever* [1922] 2 KB 113. Those observations demonstrated that there were powerful arguments against breaching the secrets of the jury room. Serious consequences might flow from an attempt to do so, particularly after a trial which had attracted great publicity, followed by the publication of an account of what the juror had said about the trial.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## Gilts firm but equities dip

An optimistic outlook was retained by most market traders yesterday, despite an across the board setback by equities.

Nevertheless, gilts continued to be active following Monday's spectacular gains spurred on by hopes of a fall in interest rates in the near future.

Gold shares too, turned in another sparkling performance buoyed up by the latest surge in the oil price. Indeed early morning trading saw the price almost break through the \$700 barrier before the strong performance of the gold price took over and the price finished \$31 up at \$687.5 an ounce.

Equities began cautiously in anticipation of profit taking which had begun the previous night. But after initial marking down of prices they made some improvement only to drift again around mid-day ahead of the trade figures later in the afternoon.

The trade figures came and went and the only conclusion that could be drawn was that it had split the market right down the middle.

In the event equities made some recovery in the afternoon while gilts finished mixed as profit takers began to move in.

At the longer end of the market activity was thinner and there was a marked easing along with sterling although rises of £1 and £2 were noted. The best performance of the day came from War

Loan 31 per cent, which closed £1 up at £334 after some heavy overseas buying. The FT index closed 4.1 down at 447.

Market leaders tended to drift lower along with the rest of the market but earlier losses were cut back after a stronger performance after hours.

Among those to show net losses on the day included Glaxo 8p lower at 460p, Hawker Siddeley 6p off at 185p and ICI 4p down at 369p. Falls of 2p were noted in Trust House

Forté at 143p, ahead of today's figures, and Grand Metropolitan at 141p also reporting later this week.

Shares of Decca dipped 10p to 340p and the AS 13p to 304p as rumours swept the market that Rascal, 9p off at 197p was about to make its long-awaited bid for the former, but at a price well below market expectations.

Elsewhere in electricals, GEC moved in line with the market trend retreating 3p to 349p while among the second liners Muthhead slipped 10p to

24p nervously awaiting figures delayed from last year owing to an accident at one of its factories. Only Electrocomp, a firm feature of last year's move against the trend rising 7p to 450p in this market.

The extended offer period from Hiram Walker made little difference to shares of Highland Distillers which remained unchanged at 145p. But the resolute appearance of C. T. Bowring in its attempt to fight off the attentions of Marsh & Maclellan helped the shares 2p to 141p.

Burnett & Hallamshire leapt 4p to 525p in this market on the announcement of Mr. Alan Ferguson's decision to resign from the board. Yarrow firmed 13p to 333p on news of its deal with Canadian Vickers but Kitchen Queen dipped a further 2p to 28p as the market awaited a possible announcement on its recent acquisitions.

In engineering Lesney dipped 2p to 28p after news that the company expected a substantial setback in profits this year, and was planning to make 1,200 employees redundant and close a factory in Japan.

Equity turnover on January 14, was £127,608m (19,129 bargains Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Consolidated Gold Fields, Imperial Continental Gas, BP, GEC, RITZ, ICI, Grand Met Hotels, KCA Int, Premier Cans GKN Marks & Spencer, Rascal, Barclays, National Westminster, Lasso, Shell, Bous, BAT and Plessey.

## Good demand boosts SGB by a third

By Alison Mitchell

Strong demand in all divisions boosted overall profits of SGB, Britain's largest scaffolding group, by over a third.

Despite a bad start to the year—and provisions overseas of almost £1m—the group turned in a record pre-tax profit of £14.5m for the 12 months to September 29, against a previous £10.7m. Turnover rose from £93m to £119m.

However, because of the upturn in demand, particularly from Germany and Holland, the group's building equipment divisions, working capital has been increased. In the year under review, borrowings rose from £18.8m to £21.6m as the group stepped-up its stocks. Much of the increase came in medium-term loans which rose from £3.6m to £5.4m.

As a result of this rise in borrowings, interest charges increased to £2.6m, compared with £1.7m.

And with spending likely to rise again in the current year, SGB is paying £2.5m for two drag lines for the new open cast mine near Newcastle—the interest charge will be higher in the current period.

Profits from scaffolding—SGB's main division—rose 40 per cent to around £6.5m by a buoyant demand causing a high usage of the equipment and thus widening margins.

The smaller United Kingdom operations, including the mechanical plant group and Youngmans, also continued their growth record.

The only problem area for SGB was the overseas subsidiaries. Although the profit contribution earned outside the United Kingdom is fairly small, the group has had to make a provision of under £2m for slow moving stock in the Gulf. This provision has been increased from the £500,000 allowed at the half-way stage. Last year, the group wrote-off its Iran investment. Elsewhere, particularly in Germany and Holland, profits are increasing.

For shareholders there is a near-30 per cent increase in the total dividend to 11.7p gross, where it is covered more than four times by earnings. There is also a four-for-five scrip issue. The shares, which slipped a penny to 234p yesterday, now yield almost 5 per cent while the p/e ratio is 7.6.



Mr. Neville Clifford Jones, chairman of the SGB group.

## Slower second half at Status Discount

By Rosemary Unsworth

Status Discount, the retail store group which is based in the north, suffered in the second half from reduced trading which held back profits growth for the full year to November 30.

Pre-tax profits went up by 7 per cent to £4m while turnover rose by 32 per cent to £40.7m. Although profits increased by 50 per cent at the interim stage to £2.4m, the increase in VAT was followed by a 25 per cent drop in profits to £1.2m. This was followed by a group's changeover to retailing metric kitchen units which did not sell well. In addition, the cost of refitting the shops with the new units affected profits.

Imperial units were sold off at lower margins, explained Mr. Edwin Hesley, chairman.

Status's problems were then compounded by the 11 week Independent Television strike as 60 per cent of its £3m advertising revenue goes to television.

The group was forced to use expensive national and regional news coverage instead which affected profitability, said Mr. Hesley.

The profit figure also includes a £25,000 first-time contribution from the group's leasing activities. A final dividend of 2.5p has been recommended, making a total of 3p gross compared with 1.35p the previous year, following the end of dividend restraint.

The share price rose 4p to 55p on the announcement and gave a new estimate for the current year of £5m turnover.

## Premier Oil rights issue

By Michael Prest

Premier Consolidated Oilfields, the independent United Kingdom oil and gas exploration and production company, is to raise £4.6m net of costs by a rights issue of 25p shares. The shares rose 1p yesterday to close at 47p.

Mr. Roland Shaw, Premier's chairman and managing director, says the cash raised will be invested in exploration and development in Texas, the Rocky Mountains and the North Sea.

The company does not intend to change its policy of concentrating on capital growth. It currently has producing assets in the United States, Italy, Trinidad and stakes in North Sea blocks.

The directors say that an alternative to the rights issue was to sell their 3 per cent stake in Lasso acquired as the result of the bid for Oil Exploration. But Premier wants to retain its stake, worth about 2.5 per cent, and its prospects to be "very favourable".

Despite the absence of dividends, the company has been a popular speculative stock for several years. Premier's capitalization has risen over the last decade from £500,000 to around £10m. City sources estimate that if its Rocky Mountain and Texas leases are successful Premier could have a cash flow of at least £1m by 1982 against £683,000 last year.

### Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Diamond Syllus (F)	0.74(0.76)	0.03(0.08)	0.57(1.22)	0.29(0.28)	28/2	—
Gough Copper (F)	23.25(18.61)	1.6(0.5)	17.39(6.58)	3.5(3.4)	—	5.6(3.3)
Imperial Continental Gas (F)	—	0.80(—)	—	—	—	—
K. Ritchie Taylor (F)	17.0(20.1)	1.9(2.1)	34.7(33.5)	7.0(5.4)	31/3	10.0(1.54)
SGB Group (F)	119.0(94.0)	14.5(10.7)	49.5(43.8)	8.1(3.55)	14/4	8.25(6.3)
United Kingdom Gas (F)	0.50(0.24)	0.25(0.33)	2.5(1.6)	—	7/3	—

Dividends are shown net of tax on pension shares. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a 9 months in Kenya pounds.

## £80m bid for Highland extended

By Richard Allen

The £80m takeover bid for Highland Distillers from Canadian drinks group Hiram Walker-Gooderham and Worts has been extended until the end of this month.

Hiram Walker's 190p a share offer was due to close this Friday, in a letter to shareholders the Canadian group said that it had made the extension to give Highland a further opportunity to put forward any "real reason" for rejecting the offer.

It points out that in rejecting the bid Highland's board had not bothered to give any details of the underlying asset position, a profits forecast or any indication of future dividends.

Mr. John MacPhail, the Scottish group's chairman, said the bid was first announced just before Christmas that the offer would not be in the interest of the company or its shareholders and had been unanimously rejected by directors.

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Mr. Robert Dean (left), a director of Hanson Trust, and Sir James Hanson, chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting in London.

James said after the meeting that he was bullish about the group's prospects in the 1980s. He expects the group to ensure higher profits and turnover by increased investment and energy and other basic commodities. Hanson said that it had made the extension to give Highland a further opportunity to put forward any "real reason" for rejecting the offer.

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## Steel dispute slows Wellman

Over the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits of Wellman Engineering Corporation, which last year fought off a takeover bid from Redman Heenan International, jumped 61 per cent to £545,000, included a seven-week contribution from last year's American acquisition. The results would have been higher, but for the United Kingdom engineering strike. "Successful efforts" are being made to overcome the effects of the strike and heavier workloads.

Their services to the oil industry fit in with the drilling rig construction interests of Azcon, an Amcon subsidiary.

Unilever plans deal

Unilever has agreed to pay £517.7m (£87.2m) for part of the food business of the Sydney-based food manufacturer, the Sydney-based food manufacturer, the Sydney-based food manufacturer.

Under the agreement Unilever will buy Marickville's fats and oils plant, a 17 hectare site in an inner Sydney suburb and the Miracle, Hi Fri and Sunfrol brands. The remainder of Marickville's margarine and grocery businesses being purchased by another Australian company.

Unilever, through its subsidiary, Unilever Australia Properties, has received Australian Government approval for the acquisition.

Rugby Portland

In a further Anglo-French joint venture, RFC technical services, a subsidiary of RFC, Seltrust Engineering, a Selection Trust Group company, and Rugby Portland, a French company, have signed an agreement with the Development Bank of the Philippines, Manila to provide general consultancy services to the Philippines cement industry.

Dynamit Nobel

Dynamit Nobel of America, a unit of Dynamit Nobel of West Germany, has acquired Harto and Co,



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Gold price  
rise lends  
lustre to  
quarterlies

By Michael Prest

Sharply higher gold prices brought bigger profits, better gold prices received, and lower unit costs to many of the mines in the Rand Mines, Anglovaal and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments groups in the December quarter.

The average gold price received by Rand Mines, for example, was \$419.5, compared with \$20.7 an ounce for the previous three months.

Johannesburg's two operating gold mines, Randfontein Estates and Western Areas, enjoyed an increase in the gold price received of \$95 to \$425. Both these mines saw their after-tax profits go up substantially. Randfontein by 37 per cent and Western by 291 per cent.

Durban Roadport Deep, a member of the Rand group, pushed its after-tax profits up by 223 per cent. East Rand, a subsidiary of Anglovaal, had a profit increase of 160 per cent.

Anglovaal also benefited from sharp profits rises, which also allowed the mines to reduce the average grade of ore mined. The company points out, however, that the decline in yields at Lorraine and ETC was mainly due to using ore from surface dumps. At Lorraine particularly, surface dumps were expected to maintain mill throughput.

Sales of antimony by Consolidated Murchison, part of Anglovaal, rose steeply.

## Options

Sustained interest in Consolidated Gold Fields helped business in traded options to remain very much on the boil yesterday. Total contracts amounted to 1,089 compared with the previous day's figure of 1,337 of which Cons Gold accounted for 636. Dealers welcomed the new record price for gold helped stake up interest; but with the January series expiring next Wednesday, investors were anxious to settle their positions or take up new positions in the April series.

Traditional options also saw further activity, with interest continuing in London and gold shares.

Ryland has control  
of R A Dyson

Hill Samuel's offers of 2p a share, made on behalf of Ryland Vehicle Group, for the 25 "A" and "B" ordinary shares of R. A. Dyson not already owned have been declared unconditional and remain open. Ryland owns or has received acceptance for 67.4 per cent of the 4.7 and 55.4 per cent of the "B".

Mr Alan Ferguson  
leaves Burnett

Mr Alan Ferguson, who joined the board of Burnett & Hallamshire at the end of last year after the successful bid for Mining Investment Corporation of which he was director and major shareholder, has resigned.

Temple Investment & Finance, a company he controls, has retained an 11.9 per cent stake in Burnett, having placed the other 3.5 per cent of the holding held by Mr Ferguson.

Howard Shuttering  
rises by a third

Building contractor and plant hire group, Howard Shuttering, has increased pre-tax profit by a third to £301,000 in the months to October 31, 1979.

Bank Base  
Rates

Bank	Base Rate
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crdts	17%
C. Hoare & Co.	17%
Clydes Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminister	17%
Rossminster	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

& 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £25,000 15% over £25,000 16%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone: 01-638 8851  
The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P. E.
99 73 Airsprung Group	73	—	6.7	9.2	24.3
50 38 Armitage & Rhodes	39	—	3.8	9.7	22.5
225 185 Bardon Hill	225	+2	13.8	6.4	10.1
101 63 Deborah Ord	92	—	5.0	5.0	—
333 100 Deborah 17% CULS	350	—	17.5	8.6	5.7
129 100 Frank Horsell	92	—	12.8	11.7	8.4
129 100 Frederick Parker	109	—	16.5	15.1	8.4
156 106 George Blair	59	—	5.2	8.8	3.5
61 45 Jackson Group	116	—	7.2	8.2	10.2
153 115 James Burrough	247	—	31.3	12.7	7.9
300 242 Robert Jenkins	223	—	14.3	6.4	5.8
232 175 Torday Limited	21	+3	0.8	4.0	4.0
34 162 Twinkl 12% ULS	75	—	12.0	15.0	11.7
86 20 Twinkl Holdings	55	—	2.6	4.7	5.4
50 73 Unilock Alexander	82	—	4.4	5.3	5.4
84 42 Walter Alexander	185	—	11.5	6.2	7.2
190 136 W. S. Yeates	—	—	—	—	—

\* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

## Wall Street

New York, Jan. 15.—Blue chips were improving as the stock market closed, although the list as a whole was mixed.

Declining issues, at about 620 led the approximately 595 advances, that was close to the same margin shown since midday.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was ahead by 5.03 to 868.60. It had been down about three points at midday.

Volume totalled 52,320,000 shares, compared with Monday's 52,930,000 shares.—AP/Dow Jones.

## US gold still soars

New York, Jan. 15.—GOLD prices were up sharply following Treasury Secretary's statement that Treasury gold sales would be suspended until the end of the year.

COMMODITIES.—Jan. 15.—COPPER was up 1.5¢ to 37.10¢. SILVER was up 1.5¢ to 1.10¢. WHEAT was up 1.5¢ to 1.10¢. SOYBEANS were up 1.5¢ to 1.10¢.

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# John Foord

plant and machinery valuers

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

On  
The Tin  
of you

On February 19, 1964, you say, but in that manner. And, when I was about it, a V always very little. Could such a journey the people whose very being is signs of an illness?

We think not. Worse still, if someone could think of asked you to do another.

Heaven is the answer. Valentine's Day. Don't be.



# THE TIMES



**Gerald Elv**

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